

NATIONAL SYMBOLS THE GREAT SEAL

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and answer the following questions.

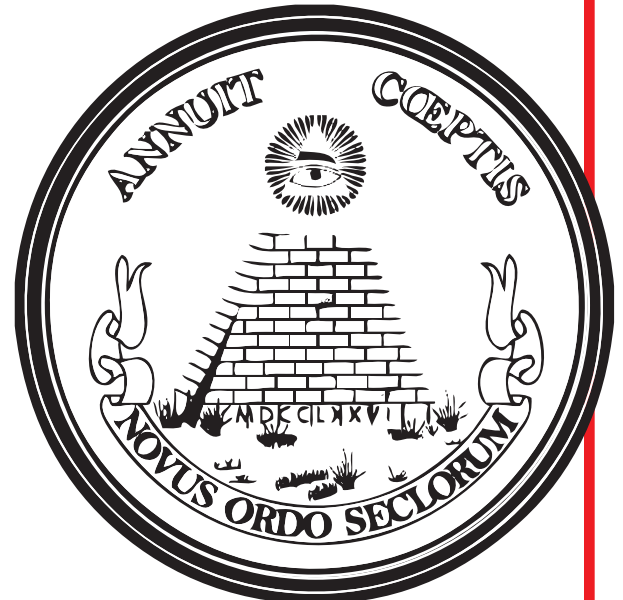
The Great Seal of the United States is used on documents of high importance. The front of the Seal is used as the coat of arms of the U.S. It shows up on documents such as U.S. passports. Both sides are shown on the one-dollar bill.

The front of the seal has a shield, blue with red and white stripes. The eagle is behind it and holds a bundle of 13 arrows, for the original states, and an olive branch, to symbolize the U.S. has a “strong desire for peace, but will always be ready for war.” In its beak, the eagle clutches a scroll with the motto *E Pluribus Unum* (Out of Many, One). Above the eagle are 13 stars on a blue field.

On the reverse is an unfinished pyramid topped with an eye in a triangle, known as the Eye of Providence. There are two mottos: *Annuit Cœptis* and *Novus Ordo Seclorum*. The first means that the Eye of Providence “approves our undertakings” and the second means “a new order of ages.”



FRONT



BACK

1. What is the Great Seal?
2. What are some items that are on the front and/or back of the Seal?
3. How many arrows are there and what do they stand for?
4. What does the olive branch stand for?
5. What does the eye in the triangle stand for?