

Illinois State Symbols Lesson Plan: State Symbols Review

Objective: Students will review facts about the State Symbols of Illinois.

Materials Needed:

- 1) Activity printouts (See the following pages for more detail)
- 2) Computer with internet connection (optional)
- 3) Additional Resources on the Illinois State Symbols (books, posters, etc.)

Grade Levels: Grades K-4

Time Frame: Varies with each activity

Background: The following four activities were created to supplement an existing unit on Illinois or the Illinois State Symbols. Students should already have background knowledge on why states choose symbols and should have had a brief introduction to each symbol of Illinois.

State Goals Addressed:

State Goal 14: Understand political systems, with an emphasis on the United States.

Learning Standard 14F: Understand the development of United States political ideas and traditions.

State Goal 16: Understand events, trends, individuals, and movements shaping the history of Illinois, the United States, and other nations.

State Goal 5A: Locate, organize, and use information from various sources to answer questions, solve problems and communicate ideas.

Learning Standard 5.A.1b: Locate information using a variety of resources.

Learning Standard 5.A.2b: Organize and integrate information from a variety of sources (e.g., books, interviews, library reference materials, websites, CD-ROMs)

Activity #1 Symbols Review Game

Grade Levels: 3rd-4th Grade

Time Required: 10-30 Minutes

Description: This is a higher level thinking game where students use deductive reasoning. The object is to have the kids narrow down which symbol the clues are referring to as you read the clues. The clues are arranged from general to specific.

Materials Needed:

- 1) Clue sheet (for teacher)
- 2) Symbol Game Sheet (1 per student)
- 3) 10 Markers (pennies, tiles, etc.)


Directions:

- 1) Distribute the game sheet and 10 markers to each student.
- 2) Explain the key to students. (Descriptions are in bold)
- 3) Read the first clue.
- 4) Students will place markers on the symbols that have been eliminated by the clue. (Example—The clue “I’m not buried under the ground” eliminates the Tully Monster and Fluorite).

**Tell students that a clue may not necessarily eliminate a symbol, and some clues may eliminate more than one symbol.

- 5) Read clue two, then clue three, etc. Play continues in this manner until only one symbol, the answer, is left.

**Please note that the State Soil is NOT included in this game.

	State Tree
	<u>When:</u> 1973 (When it became a symbol)
	<u>How:</u> School Children (How it was chosen)
	<u>Size:</u> 100 feet (30 m) high
	White Oak
	<u>Other:</u> Strong wood is used in making cabinets. (Another fact or two about the symbol)

Activity #2: State Symbols Matching Game

Grade Levels: K-2nd Grade, 3rd-4th (see “Variation”)

Time Required: 5-15 minutes

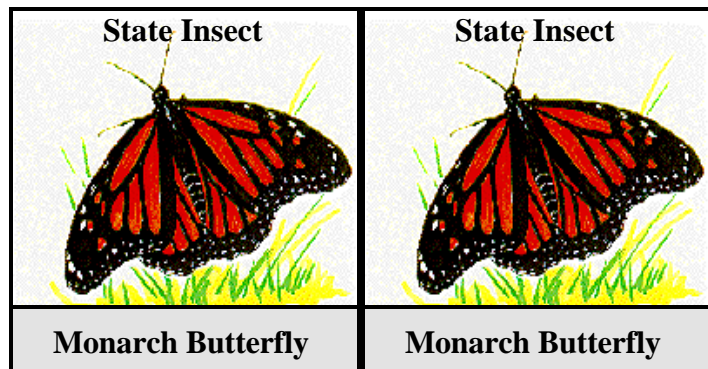
Description: Student will review the Illinois State Symbols by matching pairs of cards containing pictures of the Symbols.

Materials Needed:


- 1) One State Symbols Matching Game page for each pair of students.
- 2) Scissors

Directions:

- 1) Cut out the pictures of each symbol.
- 2) Turn them face-down, mix up the symbols, and take turns trying to match symbols.



Variation (3rd-4th Grade): For a more challenging game, copy the Symbols Review Sheet from Activity #1 for each pair of students. Instead of matching the pictures of two symbols, students must match a picture of a symbol with it’s summary of facts (the “When”, “How”, “Size” and “Other” side).

<p>State Insect</p> 	<p><u>When:</u> 1975</p>
	<p><u>How:</u> School Children</p>
	<p><u>Size:</u> Wingspan of 3½-5 in. (8-12 cm)</p>
	<p><u>Other:</u> In Spring I lay eggs on various species of milkweed.</p>
<p>Monarch Butterfly</p>	

Activity #3: State Symbols Bingo Game

Grade Levels: 1st–3rd Grade

Time Required:

Option #1: 20-40 minutes

Option #2: 10-25 minutes

Description: This is a game where students review the Illinois State Symbols by playing bingo. There are two options.

Option #1: Students cut out and glue pictures of the State Symbols on a blank bingo card.

Option #2: Teacher can download a set of 30 bingo cards and distribute them to students.

Materials needed for Option #1:

- 1) Pictures of 24 Illinois State Symbols (1 page per student)
- 2) Blank bingo card (1 per student)
- 3) 1 Calling Cards page for teacher or student caller.
- 4) Scissors
- 5) Glue
- 6) Bingo markers (beans, tiles, etc.)

Directions for Option #1:

- 1) Copy state symbols cards (1 page per student).
- 2) Have students cut out symbols and glue them on the blank bingo card in any order.
- 3) Cut out calling cards, put into a cup, and draw for bingo game.
- 4) Each page contains two of the same symbol. For a quicker game, allow students to mark two spaces per round.

Materials needed for Option #2:

- 1) 1 Calling Cards page for teacher or student caller.
 - 2) Set of 30 pre-made bingo cards (can be downloaded in PDF format).
- **It is recommended that you put these on heavier paper and laminate them for future use.
- 3) Bingo markers (beans, tiles, etc.)

Directions for Option #2:

- 1) Simply download cards, distribute to students, and play!

Variation: If you want the students to read a little more or just want to vary the game, make the state symbols pictures the calling cards and make students use the words as their bingo game board squares.

Activity #4: State Symbols Scavenger Hunts

Grade Levels: 2nd-4th Grade

Time Required: 10-30 Minutes

Description: The following activity is a scavenger hunt where students look for information (see bold print in sample below) on each symbol. Any reliable source may be used, including books, posters, and the World Wide Web.


****Internet links to each symbol are included.**

There are two different Scavenger Hunts included with this activity.

1) Scavenger Hunt A is in the form of a table and contains 3-4 symbols per page.

Students record their findings in the table squares.

2) Scavenger Hunt B requires students to find information on one symbol at a time.

 <p>State Insect</p>	<u>When:</u> (When it became a symbols)
	<u>How:</u> (Who proposed that it become a symbol)
	<u>Size:</u> (Height, Weigh, Wingspan, etc.)
	<u>Other:</u> (Other interesting or important facts: Where it lives or is found, what it is, how it is used, etc.)
Monarch Butterfly	

Sample from Scavenger Hunt B

Materials Needed:

- 1) Scavenger Hunt A and/or Scavenger Hunt B printouts for students
- 2) Source material to look up information on symbols (books, posters, World Wide Web, etc.)
- 3) Printouts of Internet links to symbols (if using the World Wide Web)
- 4) Answer Keys (Optional)

Directions:

- 1) Decide on your management plan (Are students working in teams? Individually? Is this a whole-class activity? Something to do when done with other work?).
- 2) Provide sources to look up the information on the Symbols and Scavenger Hunt Printouts.

Extensions: There are numerous activities that can be done after students find the information on the State Symbols. Included are a few ideas but you are only limited by your time and imagination!

- 1) Design a new flag for Illinois incorporating the symbols. (Art)
- 2) Design a slide show or presentation on Kid Pix or Hyperstudio. (Technology)
- 3) Write a paragraph on your favorite symbols. (Writing)
- 4) Fill out a Venn Diagram comparing two symbols. (Higher Level Thinking)
- 5) Create a poster with information about your symbol. (Higher Level Thinking)
- 6) Have students create a quiz or word search about the at Puzzlemaker on the World Wide Web (<http://puzzlemaker.school.discovery.com/>)