

The Great Seal of the United States

AN INTRODUCTORY CITIZENSHIP EXERCISE

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Teaching Objectives

- ◆ Vocabulary Acquisition
- ◆ Dictation Practice
- ◆ Concept Comprehension: “*E Pluribus Unum*”

Materials

The Great Seal that I used in this exercise is from Enchanted Learning at <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/Home.html>. Scroll down the last column on the right of your screen and click on *Crafts*. Then click on *July 4th* in the center column of your screen. Scroll down and click on *Symbols of the USA*. Scroll down one final time and click on *The Great Seal of the USA*. Right click in the center of the eagle and left click on *copy*. You can then paste the image to a Word document to use in your classroom if you are a site subscriber.

Enchanted Learning is an inexpensive subscription site supported by users. **You must observe copyright law and ethical subscription practices in using this image.**

- ◆ <http://www.templetons.com/brad/copymyths.html> 10 Big Myths about Copyright Explained
- ◆ <http://www.copyright.gov/title17/> Copyright Law of the United States

Approach

Each level of ESL learner in my multi-level class worked on different activities.

- ◆ Advanced level students were assigned to find the meaning of “*E Pluribus Unum*” and all the symbols on the Great Seal of the United States. We discussed possible vocabularies.

- ◆ Beginners were asked to color the Great Seal. Also, they reviewed the names and spelling of all the colors in English.
- ◆ Intermediate and advanced level students colored the seal and then wrote a brief description that I dictated sentence by sentence.

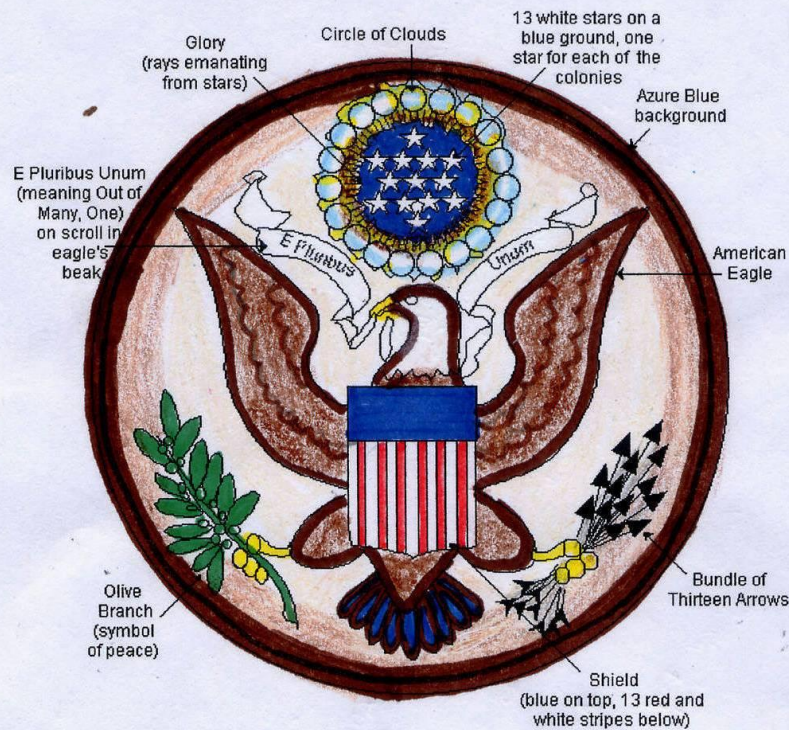


A sample of one student's finished work is shown on the following page.

Susana.

The Great Seal of The U.S.A.

Congress adopted the design for the Great Seal on June 20, 1782



E Pluribus Unum is a Latin phrase means "out of many One." It is the motto on the great seal of the -- United States. It pictures an American bald eagle - holding a ribbon in it's beak with E Pluribus Unum - written on it. It means a single nation America was created from 13 different colonies. Eagle's right foot is holding an olive branch means peace and left foot holding 13 arrows means the power for war. It holds a shield in the center with 13 red and white stripes under the blue bar. Thirteen stripes are 13 colonies united under blue bar representing the President and congress. There are 13 stars, rays, and a circle of clouds above the eagle's head. Each star represents one colony.

Reference: <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/books/julyfourth/greatseal.shtml>