



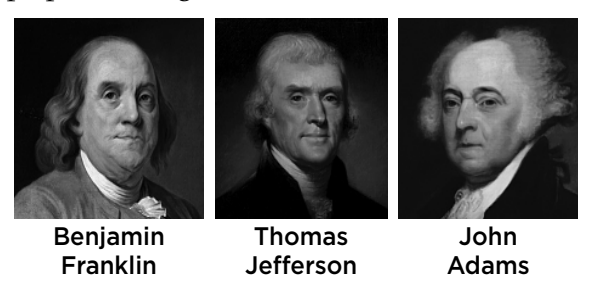
Take a close look at a \$1 bill. Look at the back. On either side of the word “one” is the Great Seal of the United States. Have you ever examined it closely before?

Let’s get up close and personal with our country’s Great Seal.

A unique symbol

Seals have been around for hundreds of years. Kings wore rings bearing their special design. They dipped the rings into hot wax to seal a letter or document.

Just hours after the Declaration of Independence was adopted in 1776, a committee of three was appointed to design the Great Seal. Ben Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were chosen to prepare a design.



Design by committee

The first design wasn’t accepted, but Congress did like the motto, “E Pluribus Unum,” which means “Out of many, one,” because one nation had been made from the 13 Colonies.

It took six years and three committees to create the final design.

The Great Seal



On the **obverse**, or front, of the seal, the major image is of an eagle. Our national bird represents power, strength and size. The olive branch in its claw represents peace.

The 13 stars above the eagle stand for the 13 original states.

The colors are white, which stands for purity and innocence; red, for valor; and blue, for vigilance and justice.

The 13 red and white stripes on the shield also represent the original 13 states. The blue band represents Congress. The shield is held with no support, showing that the U.S. can rely on its own strength.

The 13 arrows represent the power of the 13 joined states.

The **reverse**, or back, side of the seal also has meaning. The motto, “Novus Ordo Seclorum,” means the beginning of a new era. The pyramid represents strength and duration. The eye and Latin words over the pyramid represent God’s help in creating the new nation.

Mini Fact:

A metal **die**, or engraving device, has never been cut for the reverse of the Great Seal.

Veterans Day

A military **veteran** is a person who has served in the armed forces. Do you know any veterans?

We are celebrating Veterans Day this year with a feature about our country’s Great Seal. The men and women who have fought for our country’s freedoms and values are honored on Nov. 11 each year.

When Veterans Day was established in 1919, it was known as Armistice Day.

**Armistice** means a truce. Nov. 11 was chosen because World War I officially ended on that day in 1918. The name was changed to Veterans Day in 1954.

Veterans Day honors both living and dead veterans of the armed services.



On Veterans Day 2011, President Obama lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia.

Resources

- On the Web:**
- [bensguide.gpo.gov/j-great-seal](http://bensguide.gpo.gov/j-great-seal)
  - [1.usa.gov/1L2b3Bf](http://1.usa.gov/1L2b3Bf)
- At the library:**
- “The Great Seal of the United States” by Norman Pearl
  - “O, Say Can You See? America’s Symbols, Landmarks, and Important Words” by Sheila Keenan

## Try ‘n’ Find

Words that remind us of the Great Seal are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

ADAMS, AMERICA, ARROWS, BLUE, COMMITTEE, DESIGN, EAGLE, FRANKLIN, GREAT, JEFFERSON, MOTTO, OBVERSE, PYRAMID, RED, REPRESENT, REVERSE, SEAL, SHIELD, STRIPES, WAX, WHITE.

Q	R	E	G	A	J	N	I	L	K	N	A	R	F	G
C	W	E	E	S	M	X	O	T	T	O	M	K	B	R
E	H	A	P	T	S	E	P	S	E	A	L	M	H	E
S	I	G	D	R	T	E	R	Y	R	X	A	W	N	V
R	T	L	R	L	E	I	P	I	R	E	D	Z	G	I
E	E	E	N	E	E	S	M	I	C	A	F	B	I	R
V	E	U	L	B	A	I	E	M	R	A	M	F	S	S
B	S	M	A	D	A	T	H	N	O	T	N	I	E	E
O	C	R	A	R	R	O	W	S	T	C	S	J	D	J

## Cook’s Corner

### Mini Ice Cream Sandwiches

**You’ll need:**

- 16 small chocolate chip cookies (soft-baked)
- 2 cups ice cream, any flavor, softened
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts

**What to do:**

1. Spoon the ice cream evenly onto 8 cookies, about 1/4 cup each.
2. Place remaining cookies on top, pressing down gently to create 8 mini ice cream sandwiches.
3. Using a spoon, gently smooth the ice cream around the sides of each sandwich.
4. Place nuts in a shallow bowl and roll sandwiches in the nuts so they stick well to the sides. Refreeze until firm. Serves 8.

\* You’ll need an adult’s help with this recipe.

## Puzzling

Unscramble the words below that remind us of Veterans Day.

enratev

iymtilar

icsamriet

ercut

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\_\_\_\_\_

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Answers: veteran, military, armistice, truce.

## Mini Jokes

**Mark:** Why did the bank get bored?  
**Mason:** Because it lost interest!  
**Michelle:** What game do banks enjoy?  
**Mary:** Checkers!  
**Michael:** What’s a robber’s favorite dance?  
**Mitch:** The vaultz!

## Eco Note

A researcher from the University of Vienna in Austria has discovered that giraffes hum at night. Scientists believe it may be a way for them to communicate when they can’t see well in the dark. The humming is barely within the range of human hearing.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

**For later:**

States have great seals, too. Look up the seal and motto for your state.

**Teachers:**

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: [bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching\\_guides.html](http://bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching_guides.html)

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