

Symbolism at the City & County Building

Objectives

Students will:

- Explore the concept of symbolism.
- Observe carvings and sculptures from the City and County Building.
- Discover that carvings and sculptures can be symbols.
- Design a sculpture to relate a concept or tell a story.

Setting the Stage

1. Show *Familiar Symbols Handout* overhead. **Ask students:** *What do these pictures mean? How do you know?* Explain that pictures can be used to represent ideas or stories.
2. Write the word symbol on the board. **Explain:** A symbol is an object, picture, or idea that stands for something else. When we see a red light, we know that cars should stop. That red light is a symbol.

Student Instruction

1. **Explain:** The City and County Building has many carvings and sculptures that are symbols. Some of the carvings represent aspects of life in Utah. The statues are symbols of the values or ideas important to the people who built the building.
2. Ask students to turn to the *City and County Building Carving* on page 6 in their *Symbol of the City Reading Packet*. Students review the symbols in this carving and how they represent life in Utah.
3. Pass out *Carvings Photo* to each student. Students read the information on the sheet and identify each carving. **Ask students:** *How do these carvings help tell Utah's story? Do they make the City and County Building special? Why or why not?*
4. Pass out the *Statues Photo*. Students read the information. As a class, briefly review the symbolic significance of each statue and the items she holds to insure student comprehension. **Ask students:** *Why do you think architects chose these statues for the City and County Building? Are they good symbols to have on a city hall?*

Materials

- Familiar Symbols
(1 overhead)
- Symbol of the City Reading Packet (from Lesson 1)
- Carvings Photo
(1 per student)
- Statues Photo
(1 per student)
- Drawing Materials

Core Curriculum Objectives

4th Grade

- Social Studies
6040-0102
6040-0202
6040-0203

- Visual Arts
1040-0301
1040-0302
1040-0401
1040-0403

5th Grade

- Visual Arts
1050-0301
1050-0302
1050-0402
1050-0403

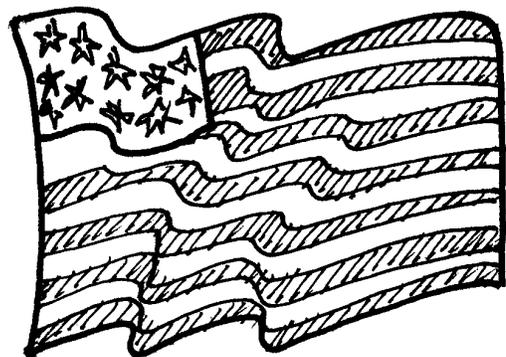
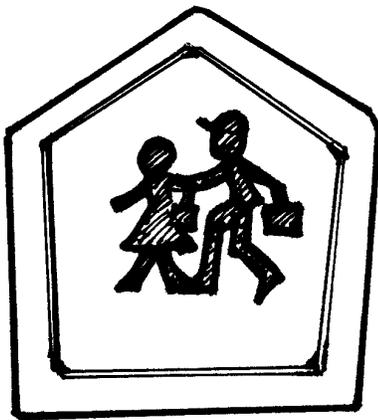
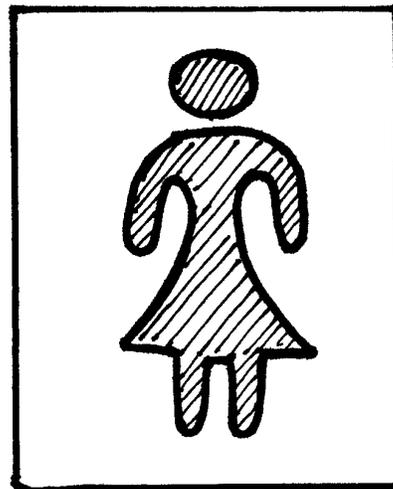
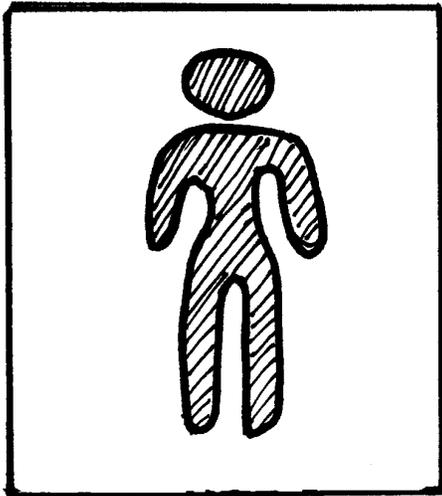
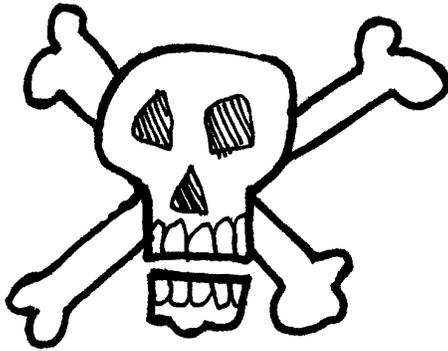


5. Remind students that the City and County Building itself is a symbol of Salt Lake City. **Ask students:** *Why do you think the City and County Building became a symbol of the city?*

Student Activity

1. Ask students to consider the changes in Salt Lake City over the past 100 years. For example, the population could no longer be represented by farmers and miners. Other important industries, technology, and events have changed Salt Lake City in many ways. As a class, brainstorm a list of things that represent life in Salt Lake City today. Give some examples, such as: People visit Salt Lake City to ski. The city is the hub for Delta Airlines. The city has light rail. Many technological companies are based in the area. The city is the host of the 2002 Olympics.

2. Ask students to design a statue that represents Salt Lake City today. Students may wish to study the newspaper for a few days to get ideas. The statue will hold objects in its hands that relate to what it symbolizes. Students will write the name of their statue on their drawing. Students may wish to trace the statues found in the lesson to get an outline for their own drawing.



There are many stone carvings on the City and County Building. Some of the carvings tell the story of Utah's people and natural environment. Find the face of an Indian chief, a Spanish explorer, and a pioneer woman on this page. **What carvings of animals do you see?**



Some people think this carving is a sea monster from Lake Bonneville. **What do you think?**



Photos by Brian Griffin, Griffin Photo Design.

Five statues of women stand on top of the City and County Building. They are symbols of values or ideas important to the people of Salt Lake City when the buildings was built. Each statue holds something that helps explain what she stands for.



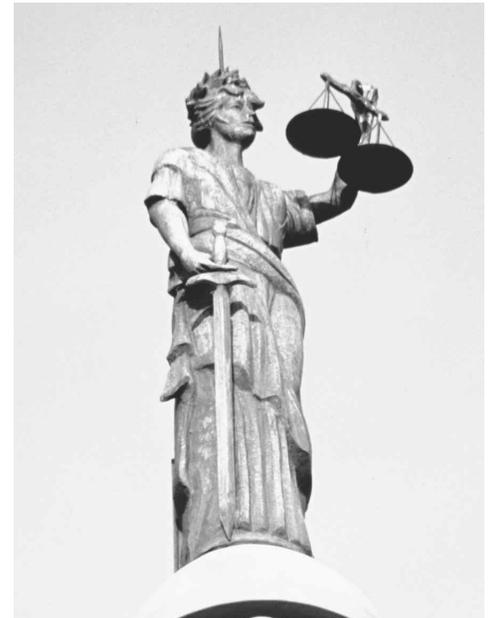
Columbia

The statue on top of the clock tower is *Columbia*. *Columbia* was a popular symbol for the United States of America in the 19th century just as Uncle Sam is a popular symbol for America today. In one hand she holds a torch to represent the “light” of knowledge. In the other, she holds a staff with a dove to represent peace.



Liberty

Liberty stands on the north side of the building. She holds a shield and sword to defend freedom.



Justice

A statue of *Justice* stands on the south side of the building. *Justice* holds scales to show balance and fairness. She also holds a sword to defend the laws.



Commerce

The statues on the east and west of the building are called *Commerce* which means trade between people or cities.

Look for a statue of Commerce on your tour and find out what she is holding.

Columbia, Liberty, and Justice by Brian Griffin, Griffin Photo Design. Commerce by Roger Tuttle, Light Minded Photographics.