

FOCUS wild arizona

WE ARE PLEASED TO INTRODUCE the Focus: Wild Arizona department, a new feature for youth. We hope teachers and parents will use the activities in these pages to involve children with Arizona wildlife. This feature is part of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Focus: Wild Arizona program, a free education program for teachers, parents, students or anyone interested in learning about wildlife and habitat. Visit our Web site, azgfd.gov/focuswild, to find exciting lessons and resources.

Key Words

Adopted: officially approved or selected

Native (species): plant or animal living in Arizona before people

Symbol: an item or object that stands for or represents something else

Symbols representing important ideas about Arizona are used to show people our unique state. Each of these symbols was passed into law by the Arizona Legislature and holds special importance.

Perhaps the best-known symbol of Arizona is our state flag. Adopted in 1917, it is divided into two parts, which are separated by a copper star. The star represents Arizona as the largest producer of copper in the nation. The top half of the flag has 13 red and yellow rays. These colors

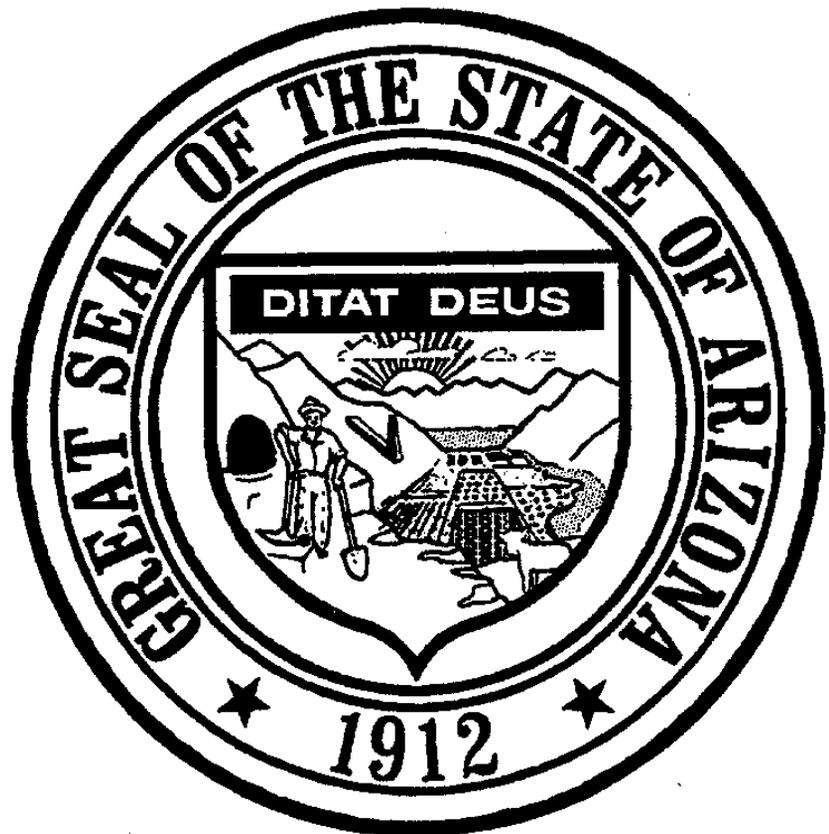
symbolize a western sunset, and the number 13 stands for the original American colonies. The bottom half of the flag is a solid blue, the same color found on the United States flag.

Other symbols important to our state are found on the Great Seal of Arizona, adopted in 1911. The seal is used for official state business. Many symbols shown on the seal represent what have been called "the five C's of Arizona's economy:" copper, cattle, cotton, citrus and climate.

Arizona has also selected eight plants and animals to serve as our



living state symbols. Can you identify them? Visit our Web page at azgfd.gov/focuswild and click on the "Living State Symbols of Arizona" to download a presentation that will help test your knowledge.





Arizona has been asked to submit a design for the back of a quarter commemorating the state. If you were selected to design this quarter, what would it look like? Would you use one of our current state symbols or choose something entirely different? Using what you know about symbols, here's your chance to design a quarter. Use the blank quarter on this page as your guide.

Requirements:

- Use 1-3 symbols that you believe best represent Arizona
- At least one symbol must be a native wildlife species
- Use the template provided
- Color as appropriate

You are welcome to keep your artwork, but if you would like to send your

design to the Arizona Game and Fish Department, please mail it to Karen Schedler, Arizona Game and Fish Department IEED, 2221 W. Greenway Road, Phoenix, AZ 85023. Please send your name, school grade level, address, phone number and e-mail address (if you have one) with your submission.

■ This activity is adapted from the Living State Symbols of Arizona lessons.