

🛱 From Our Home To Yours 🐯

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"Oh, Beautiful For Heroes Proved"
Our Founding Fathers
Family Home Evening Packet



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## "Oh, Beautiful For Heroes Proved" Family Home Evening Packet Home Evening Outline Our Founding Fathers

Opening Prayer Opening Song **Closing Prayer** Refreshments Closing Song Scripture **Activity** Story

Suggested Songs: "America The Beautiful", pg. 338 (Hymn) The Star-Spangled Banner", pg. 340 (Hymn) "My Country, TIs of Thee", pg. 339 (Hymn)

Scripture: D&C 101:79-80, 1 Nephi 2:20, Ether 2:9-10 & 12, 2 Corinthians 3:17

Stary: Color graphics with markers, colored pencils, chalks, etc. Use flannel, or laminate and cut out and place magnets on back of graphics. etc.

4ctivity - The United States One Dollar Bill:

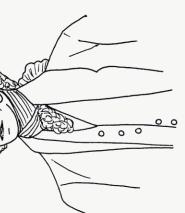
he type paper. Continue to press the dollar bill until it is crisp and flat. This activity works best f a magnifying glass is available and can be used. Be sure to study the "United States One Dollar Bill" information sheet, so that you are familiar with the symbols and where they are on Activity Setup - Collect a one dollar bill for each member of your family. Place each dollar oill between two sheets of clean type paper and press with an iron, being careful not to scorch

key point, one point at a time, allowing time for study and questions. When all key points have been explained, bear your testimony as to the importance of our Founding Fathers and the ole that they played in bringing forth the freedom of our nation and the restoration of the Begin Activity - Gather the family together in a circle. Give each family member a pressed, one dollar bill and magnifying glass if available. If only one magnifying glass is available, amily members can take turns with the magnifying glass. Begin by explaining the first key point: Why our money doesn't disintegrate when it gets wet. Continue on, explaining each xtra Activity - For Family Home Evening, make each family member a "Patriot" hat to wear during Family Home Evening. All instructions and patterns are included on the "Patriot Hat gospel. Bear testimony that we need to be examples, and fight to keep "God" in our society.

# Red, White & Blue Kue Datriot's Dessert

Ingredients

- I white cake mix
- Whole blueberries Strawberries
- Strawberry glaze Whipping cream
  - Red and blue
- food coloring



## Directions:

Lastly, pour the blue batter on top of the white batter. Bake coloring, tint 1/3 of the cake batter red. Leave 1/3 of the the bottom of the bundt pan. Carefully pour the white cake according to bundt pan instructions. Allow cake to Divide the cake batter evenly into thirds. Using red food Grease and flour a bundt pan. Pour the red batter into batter on top of the red batter so as not to mix the two. slice cake and serve with strawberry glaze and whipped cool. For strawberry glaze, wash and slice strawberries. Mix cake batter according to directions on cake box. cake batter white and tint 1/3 of the cake batter blue. Mix strawberries with strawberry glaze. When serving, topping. Garnish with whole blueberries. DELICIOUS!!!!!

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## "Oh, Beautiful For Heroes Proved"

"Oh, beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
Katherine Lee Bates 1859-1929

We live in a wonderful country, a "land of promise!" We live in a country that allows us to speak, act and think freely. A country that through the protection of the First Amendment to the Constitution allows its citizens to worship as they please. What a wonderful blessing it is to live in America and worship our Heavenly Father as we please!

Is it an accident or a mere coincidence that we live in a FREE nation? It is not. We must never doubt that the Lord has all things in his hands. The Lord from the beginning, has prepared this land. Nephi was promised that if he would keep the commandments, that he would be led to a "land of promise; yea, even a land which I have prepared for you; yea, a land which is choice above all other lands." (1 Nephi 2:20) "For centuries the Lord kept America hidden in the hollow of His hand until the time was right to unveil her for her destiny in the last days . . . In the Lord's due time His Spirit 'wrought upon' Columbus, the Pilgrims, the Puritans, and others to come to America . . . Our Father in Heaven planned the coming forth of the Founding Fathers and their form of government as the necessary great prologue leading to the restoration of the gospel." (Ezra Taft Benson)

In a revelation given to Joseph Smith at Kirtland, Ohio on December 16, 1833 the Lord said: "I established the Constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men whom I raised up unto this very purpose, and redeemed the land by the shedding of blood." Wilford Woodruff said of our Founding Fathers, these "men who laid the foundation of this American government and signed the Declaration of Independence were the best spirits the God of heaven could find on the face of the earth. They were choice spirits . . . noble spirits before God."

Who were these men and why are they referred to as the Founding Fathers? The term "Founding Fathers" comes from what they did. They founded a nation. These men were the fathers of the United States of America.

Our Founding Fathers included the fifty-six men who signed the Declaration of Independence and the thirty-nine who signed the Constitution. They were men of exceptional character, "sober, seasoned, distinguished men of affairs, drawn from various walks of life." (J. Reuben Clark, Jr.)

### DISCUSSION: How important was the faith of our Founding Fathers in accomplishing the freedom of our nation?

Wilford Woodruff said "I believe it was most significant because they believed that what they accomplished was not possible without the superintending hand of God, and they believed that morality based on true religion was indispensable to liberty, without which the new republic would fail." Through word and deed, these men acknowledged God's hand in the events that brought about our independence. It was not an accident that the name of God was mentioned in the Declaration of Independence four times and that our inspired national motto became "In God We Trust."

There are many men who are considered to be Founding Fathers. We are going to discuss four of them - George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Hancock.

George Washington was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, on February 22, 1732. Washington had no formal schooling but was taught by his family. He was very religious and attended church regularly. As a young boy, George wrote this motto in one of his notebooks: "Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire, conscience."

Washington had a firm faith in God and it was evident in everything that he did and said. During a meeting of the First Continental Congress at Carpenter's Hall on September 5, 1774, Dr. Duche opened the meeting with a prayer. While most of the delegates were seen standing, George Washington was kneeling. George always acknowledged God's hand in everything. Upon hearing news that the war with Britain had ceased, Washington ordered that all of the army chaplains "render thanks to Almighty God." He was quoted as saying "The success, which has hitherto attended our united efforts, we owe to the gracious interposition of Heaven, and to that interposition let us gratefully ascribe the praise of victory, and the blessings of peace." Upon Washington's death a dear friend, Congressman Henry Lee wrote "To the memory of the Man, first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." These now famous words, accurately described the feelings of Americans for their first president.

Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston on January 17, 1706. He was the fifteenth of seventeen children. He had only two years of formal schooling, but was known to many as America's first great writer, a great inventor and a man of many talents. Franklin was one of America's greatest diplomats and he was the only man that signed all four documents that led to the creation of the United States of America: The treaty with France, the Declaration of Independence, the peace treaty with Great Britain that ended the Revolution and the Constitution of the United States.

Benjamin Franklin also had a firm belief in God. In a prayer given at the Constitutional Convention in June of 1787 he said: "The longer I live the more convincing Proofs I see of this Truth. That God Governs in the Affairs of Men! - And if a Sparrow cannot fall to the Ground without his Notice, is it probable that an Empire can rise without his Aid? - We have been assured, in the Sacred Writings, that 'except the Lord build the House, they labour in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this; - and I also believe that without His concurring Aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than Builders of Babel"

Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States, author of the Declaration of Independence, diplomat, architect, musician, scientist, inventor and champion of freedom and democracy was born on April 13, 1743 in Albemarle County, Virginia. Jefferson did not consider himself to be a great speaker, but he could write well. He was known as the pen of the American Revolution. Because of his "masterly pen" and being a member of the largest colony, he was chosen to write the Declaration of Independence.

Jefferson felt that his most important work was that of his Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom which was passed in 1786. He was quoted as saying: "The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time."

John Hancock, a leader in the American Revolution and one of Boston's richest merchants was born in Braintree, Massachusetts on January 12, 1737. He was believed to be one of the men who started the American Revolution. He was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence. He signed his name in extra large letters so that King George III would be able to read his signature without his glasses, knowing full well that signing his name to this document was considered treasonous.

The United States of America began and lives as a result of our Founding Fathers faith in God. The Bible has been and is the foundation for this faith. "The Founding Fathers had to refer to the Creator in order to make their revolutionary experiment make sense, it was because 'all men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights' that men could dare to be free. They wrote their religious faith into our founding documents, stamped their trust in God on the faces of their coins and currency, and put it boldly at the base of our institutions. And when they drew up their bold Bill of Rights, where did they put freedom of worship? First, in the cornerstone position. That was no accident." (So Shall Ye Reap, p. 162)

Speaking of the Founding Fathers, Wilford Woodruff related this experience: "Before I left St. George, the spirits of the Founding Fathers gathered around me, wanting to know why we did not redeem them. Said they, 'You have had the use of the Endowment House for a number of years, and yet nothing has ever been done for us. We laid the foundation of the government you now enjoy, and we never apostatized from it, but we remained true to it and were faithful to God.' These were the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and they waited on me for two days and two nights . . . I straightway went into the baptismal font and called upon Brother McCallister to baptize me for the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and fifty other eminent men, making one

hundred in all, including John Wesley, Columbus, and others." If they had not been men of faith, if they had not been God-fearing men, would they have sought their temple blessings? "I think not. The Lord raised them up, sanctioned their work, and proclaimed them 'wise men.' Moreover, a president of the Church declared them to be the 'best spirits the God of heaven could find' and testified that they were 'choice spirits' and 'inspired of the Lord." (Ezra Taft Benson)

Why is it so important to those of us living today that our Founding Fathers were God-fearing men of faith? Our nation was founded on very important principles one of which states that all men are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights." This statement shows that the Founding Fathers believed that God is the Creator of man and that our freedom is a gift from that creator. The Founding Fathers also recognized that if our nation was to survive, "there must be reliance on the protection of God. The Declaration of Independence concluded with this oath: 'With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." (Ezra Taft Benson)

#### Read Ether 2:9-10, 12

This scripture tells us that as long as we retain the faith of our Founding Fathers, our nation will be preserved. Upholding personal righteousness is essential to our liberty. In 2 Corinthians 3:17 we read: "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." We live in an age where efforts are constantly being made to belittle the integrity and accomplishments of our Founding Fathers simply to change or undermine the system established by them. They want to remove God from our Society all together. As Latter-day Saints we have an obligation to uphold the Constitution, and recognize and defend the principles to which it was founded on by our Founding Fathers. We need to support wise and good representatives and keep the commandments of God.

The Lord has said this to us: "I the Lord God, make you free, therefore ye are free indeed, and the law also maketh you free. Nevertheless, when the wicked rule the people mourn. Wherefore, honest men and wise men should be sought for diligently, and good men and wise men ye should observe to uphold; otherwise whatsoever is less than this cometh of evil." D&C 98:8-10

Ezra Taft Benson has said: "Our Founding Fathers, with solemn and reverent expression, voiced their allegiance to the sovereignty of God, knowing that they were accountable to Him in the day of judgement. Are we less accountable today? I think not. I urge all to keep the commandments and to pray for our nation and its leaders. It is my conviction that God does now look with favor and has looked with favor upon this government, which He established by wise men. It is also my firm conviction that His protective hand is still over the United States of America. I know too that if we will keep the commandments of God - live as He has directed and as He does now direct through His prophets - we will continue to have His protecting hand over us. But we must be true to the great Christian principles that God has revealed. Then, and only then, will we be safe as a nation and as individuals. God grant that we as members of the Church can stand before God and declare as the founders of this nation did:"

"We never apostatized. We remained true and were faithful to God."

#### **DISCUSSION**

- •What does the term "Founding Fathers" mean?
- •Why were the accomplishments of our Founding Fathers so important to the restoration of the gospel?
- •What are each of you grateful to our Founding Fathers for?

## Our Founding Fathers

#### Children's Version

We live in a wonderful country, a "land of promise!" We live in a country that allows us to speak, act and think freely. A country that through the protection of the Constitution gives us our religious freedom. What a wonderful blessing it is to live in America and worship our Heavenly Father as we please!

Is it an accident that we live in a FREE nation? It is not. We must always have faith that the Lord knows everything, and He has all things in his hands. The Lord from the beginning, has prepared this land. Nephi was promised that if he would keep the commandments, that he would be led to a "land of promise; yea, even a land which I have prepared for you; yea, a land which is choice above all other lands." (1 Nephi 2:20) Our Father in Heaven planned the coming forth of the Founding Fathers and inspired them to set up the government we have today. By doing so, Heavenly Father was able to restore the gospel through Joseph Smith.

In a revelation given to Joseph Smith at Kirtland, Ohio on December 16, 1833 the Lord said: "I established the Constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men whom I raised up unto this very purpose, and redeemed the land by the shedding of blood." President Wilford Woodruff said that our Founding Fathers, were the best spirits that God could find on the face of the earth. "They were choice spirits . . . noble spirits before God."

Who were these men and why are they referred to as the Founding Fathers? The term "Founding Fathers" comes from what they did. They founded a nation. These men were the fathers of the United States of America. In other words, our Founding Fathers started this nation.

#### DISCUSSION: How important was the faith of our Founding Fathers in accomplishing the Freedom of our nation?

These men believed that it would not be possible for them to start a new nation without the help of God. They knew that if they did not have God's help, the nation would fail. Our Founding Fathers, through word and deed made it known to everyone that our nation's independence was brought about with God's hand. Our national motto became "In God We Trust."

There are many men who are considered to be Founding Fathers. We are going to discuss four of them - George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Hancock.

George Washington was born in Virginia, on February 22, 1732. Washington had no formal schooling but was taught by his family. He was very religious and attended church regularly. As a young boy, George wrote this motto in one of his notebooks: "Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire, conscience." Washington had a firm faith in God and it was evident in everything that he did and said. During a meeting of the First Continental Congress a prayer was offered to start the meeting. While most of the delegates were seen standing, George Washington was kneeling. George always acknowledged God's hand in everything. When George Washington heard that the war had ended, he commanded all of his army chaplains to "render thanks to Almighty God."

Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston on January 17, 1706. He was the fifteenth of seventeen children. He had only two years of formal schooling, but was known to many as America's first great writer, a great inventor and a man of many talents. Franklin was one of America's greatest diplomats and he was the only man that signed all four documents that led to the creation of the United States of America. Franklin also had a firm belief in God and acknowledged God's hand in winning our independence as a nation.

Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States, author of the Declaration of Independence and champion of freedom and democracy was born on April 13, 1743 in Virginia. Jefferson did not consider himself to be a great speaker, but he could write well. He was known as the pen of the American Revolution. Because of his "masterly pen" and being a member of the largest colony, he was chosen to write the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson though felt that his most important work was that of his Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom which was passed in 1786. He was quoted as saying: "The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time."

John Hancock, a leader in the American Revolution and one of Boston's richest merchants was born in Massachusetts on January 12, 1737. He was believed to be one of the men who started the American Revolution. He was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence. He signed his name in extra large letters so that King George III would be able to read his signature without his glasses, knowing full well that signing his name to this document was considered treasonous.

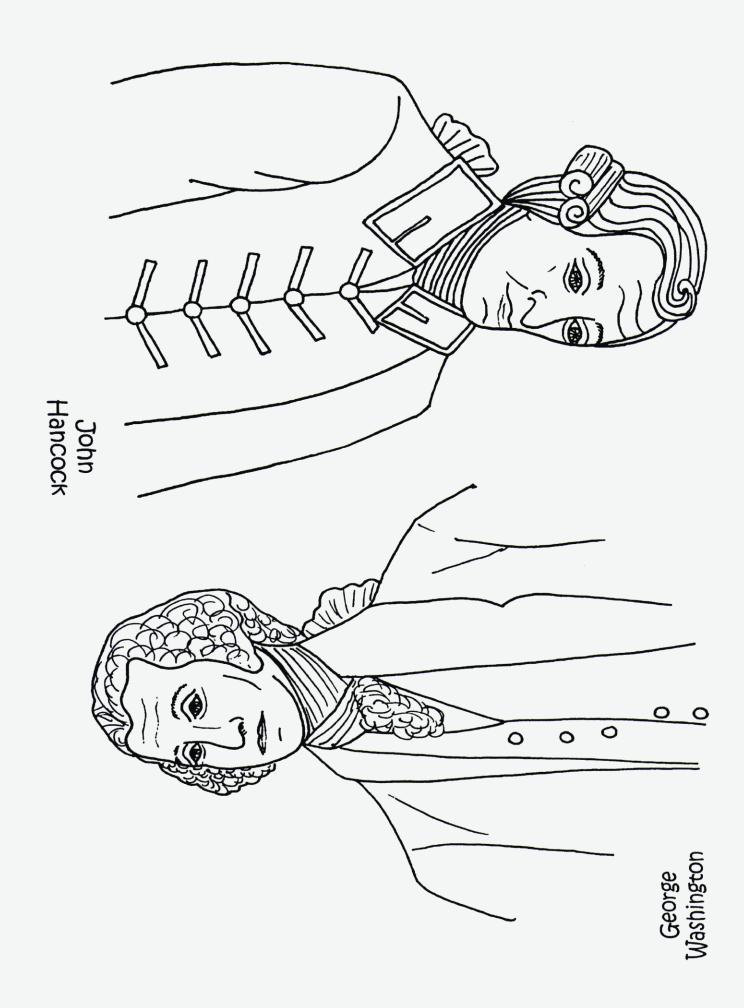
The United States of America began and lives as a result of our Founding Fathers faith in God. The Bible has been and is the foundation for this faith. They wrote their religious faith into our founding documents and stamped their trust in God on the faces of their coins and currency.

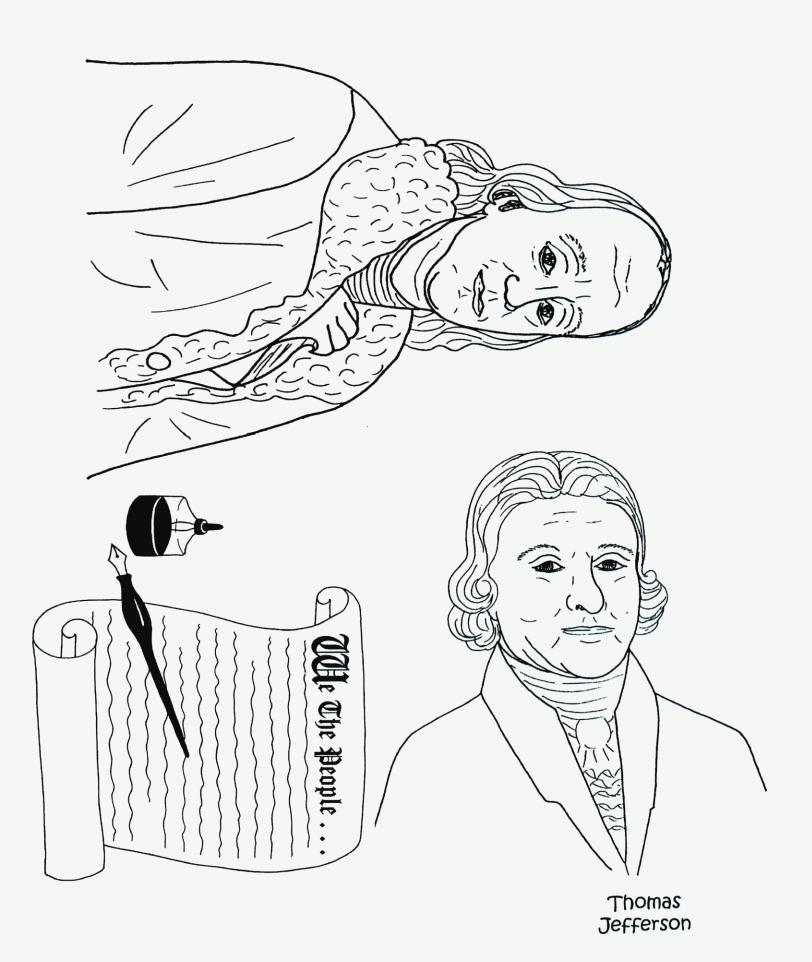
President Wilford Woodruff related an experience that happened to him as he was getting ready to leave St. George. He said that the spirits of the Founding Fathers gathered around him and asked why their temple work had not been done for them after all they had done for this country. Wilford Woodruff went straight to work that evening, and with the help of Brother McCallister was baptized for the signers of the Declaration of Independence and fifty other important men. Obviously, our Founding Fathers were great, religious men to come to the temple and request that their temple work be done.

We live in a time where men are trying to destroy all that our Founding Fathers have accomplished. They want to take God out of our society all together. It is up to you and I to keep the commandments of God, and to be an example and light to the world. We need to pray for the leaders of our nation, so that God will help them make good decisions. One person at a time, we can make a difference in this world and in our nation!

#### DISCUSSION

- •What does the term "Founding Fathers" mean?
- •Why were the accomplishments of our Founding Fathers so important to the restoration of the gospel?
- •What are each of you grateful to our Founding Fathers for?





## THE UNITED STATES ONE DOLLAR BILL



- •Have you ever wondered why money doesn't disintegrate when it gets wet? Unlike normal paper that is made from cellulose which comes from trees, our money is made from paper that is made of rags. Cotton is beaten to make cotton or linen fibers. The rag fibers bond together and are unaffected by water.
- •Look on the front of the bill. On the right hand side you will see the United States Treasury Seal. On the top of the seal you will see the scales. The scales represent a balanced budget. In the center of the seal you have a carpenter's square, a tool used for an even cut. On the bottom of the seal is the key to the United States Treasury.
- •Now turn the bill over, you will see two circles. Both of these circles together, comprise the Great Seal of the United States. The First Continental Congress requested that Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams design a seal. It took them four years to accomplish this task and two years to get it approved.
- •The left hand circle is the back of the seal and the right hand circle is the front of the seal.
- •Inside the left hand circle is a pyramid. Notice that the face is lighted and the western side is dark. This represents that our country was just beginning and that we had not begun to explore the West yet. The pyramid is also uncapped, signifying that our nation was not finished yet. Inside the capstone of the pyramid, you have the all-seeing eye which is an ancient symbol for divinity. Benjamin Franklin believed that one man couldn't do it alone, but a group of men united with God's help could accomplish anything.
- •"In God We Trust" is found in the center of the bill. This is our national motto. The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS means "God has favored our undertaking." The Latin below the pyramid NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, means "A new order has begun." At the base of the pyramid is the Roman Numeral for 1776.
- •If you look at the right hand circle, you will learn that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States. It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, Florida National Cemetery and is the centerpiece of most hero's monuments. Slightly different, it is the seal of the President of the United States and is always visible whenever he speaks, yet very few people know what the symbols mean.
- •The Bald Eagle was selected as our national symbol for two reasons: First, the Bald Eagle is powerful, majestic and not afraid of a storm. He is strong enough and smart enough to soar above it. Second, he wears no material crown. We had just broken off from the King of England.
- •Take notice of the shield. It is unsupported; no pole or staff. This symbolizes that our country can now stand on its own. At the top of the shield, there is a white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor across all the colonies. We were coming together as one nation.
- •In the Eagle's beak you read: "*E PLURIBUS UNUM*" meaning "one nation from many people" or "many people united." Above the Eagle, you have thirteen stars, representing the thirteen colonies, and any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away. Again, we were coming together as one nation. Notice what the eagle holds in his talons. He is holding an olive branch and arrows. This symbolizes that our country wants peace, but we will be prepared to fight to preserve peace. The Eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze will turn toward the arrows.
- •Most people consider thirteen to be an unlucky number. This is believed almost worldwide, but consider this: Thirteen original colonies, thirteen stripes on our flag, thirteen steps on the pyramid, thirteen letters in "ANNUIT COEPTIS", thirteen letters in "E PLURIBUS UNUM", thirteen stars above the Eagle, thirteen bars on the shield, thirteen leaves on the olive branch and thirteen arrows in the Eagle's claw.
- •Our Founding Fathers placed a great deal of thought, significance and symbolism into these seals. It shows their unwavering faith in God and that our nation was founded on religious principles!

### PATRIOT HAT **INSTRUCTIONS** This is a fun activity to do as a family. Let each family member construct their own hat and decorate them. Then have each PATTERN family member wear their hat to family home evening. Cut out hat pattern on dashed line. Cut out the star pattern. For each hat, trace hat pattern three times onto brown, navy (adhere here) blue or black poster board or cardstock (poster board works best) and the star pattern on yellow cardstock six times. Constructing the hat: Take two hat pieces, matching two $\sqrt{}$ ends together and making sure that both pieces are top up, and adhere together using glue, tape or staples. Take the third hat piece and match one of its ends to one of the available ends, again making sure that the top is up and adhere. Lastly, take the two available ends, match them up and adhere. Glue one star at each \ end of each hat piece, six stars all together. The hat is complete. The hat is worn so that one of the points is centered on the forehead. Sizes: For children ages one to five, cut a pattern that is 1/4 to 1/2 inch smaller than the actual pattern. For children ages six to ten use actual pattern and for anyone eleven and older, cut a pattern that is 1/2 inch larger than the actual pattern. WEITHAND TAN TOWNS This is how the finished hat should look. Front of hat Star Pattern

the Constitution of this land, by the hands "Therefore, it is not right that any man And for this purpose have I established should be in bondage one to another. of wise men whom I

raised up unto this very purpose, and redeemed shedding of blood." D&C 101:79-80 the land by the

