



### ACTIVITY - 5

This unit is called “Exploring Symbols.” A symbol is a word, image, or object that represents something else, just as “Sun Lion” represented (stood for) Tagore and your pen name represents you. Symbols are very common in poetry and stories. Tagore used them often. In the line

“Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit”

Tagore tells us that “reason” is a “stream”. Tagore thinks of reason as if it is a stream. The stream is a symbol for reason. What is another line where we see that Tagore uses a symbol in this way?

Tagore wrote India's national anthem and is very much loved. There are many other symbols of India that are also loved by her people. Consider the national bird, tree, game, fruit, etc. Think about the national emblem or flag. Think about colours or animals that are beloved in India.

**Work together as a group to make a list of at least 10 “symbols of India.”**


Compare the list that your group made with other lists. Did other classmates think of symbols that you did not?

## ACTIVITY - 6

As a class, compare all the lists that were made in activity 6 to make a new list that ranks five symbols according to your group's favourite. Ranking means to put in order. Rank the symbol that is your group loves most as first, the next favourite is second.... The least favourite of the five will be last. Use any items from any list.

My group ranks these five symbols according to preference:	
1.	Favourite
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	Least Favourite

Remember that a symbol is something that represents, or “stands for”, something else. For example, the colour green in India's flag does not ONLY mean green. It also “stands for” fertility. Why does green have this meaning? People will have different answers to this question. Maybe green stands for fertility because it is the colour of the plants that come up every spring, the colour of fertile land that grows our food.

**People have very different ideas about what symbols mean. What does your group think about their favourite symbol of India means?**