

# Flying American Eagle

### Supplies:

- 1 Paper plate
- 1 Marble
- 2 Plastic spoons
- Masking tape
- Rubber bands
- Markers
- Bronze or gold paint
- A paintbrush
- Scissors








### Steps:

	<p>Step 1: Fold the paper plate in half to create a crease. Cut along the crease to divide the paper plate into two halves.</p>
	<p>Step 2: Cut one of the halves into three equal pieces. Each piece should resemble a small triangle.</p>
	<p>Step 3: Position the remaining half-circle piece of the paper plate like a shallow bowl, with the curved edge facing up. Paint the inside with bronze, brown, or gold paint to mimic eagle feathers and set it aside to dry.</p>
	<p>Step 4: Place a marble between the two bowl-shaped parts of the plastic spoons, then close the spoons to encase the marble.</p>
	<p>Step 5: Wrap two rubber bands tightly around the handles of the plastic spoons to keep the marble securely in place.</p>

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	<p>Step 6: Using markers, draw two eyes and a beak on the top of one spoon. The eyes should be small circles, and the beak a triangle.</p>
	<p>Step 7: Once the paint on the half-circle plate piece is dry, turn it face down with the straight edge furthest from you.</p>
	<p>Step 8: Position one of the triangle wedges behind the half-circle piece with its pointed end in the center. Tape it securely to the back.</p>
	<p>Step 9: Attach the spoons to the back of the half-circle piece with the drawn face facing down and the spoon heads extending over the straight edge. Secure them with tape.</p>
	<p>Step 10: Make the American eagle fly! Hold the eagle by pinching the spoon handles with your fingers and thumb, then gently toss it like a paper airplane.</p>

**Why is the bald eagle a symbol of the United States?** The bald eagle became a symbol of the United States in 1782, during the fight for independence from Great Britain, when a Pennsylvania lawyer, William Barton, and the Secretary of Congress, Charles Thomson, designed the Great Seal of the United States. The seal features a bald eagle holding 13 arrows and an olive branch with 13 leaves, representing the original 13 colonies. Barton explained that the eagle symbolizes supreme power and authority, while the olive branch and arrows represent the nation's powers of peace and war. The use of an eagle as a political symbol dates back to ancient Rome, where it stood for courage, strength, and immortality.

#### Fun Facts:

- Benjamin Franklin, one of our Founding Fathers, once wrote a letter to a friend saying that he wished the bald eagle had *not* been chosen to represent our country. He thought the turkey was a more respectable bird.

- The bald eagle is found on the presidential seal, many government agency logos, and our one-dollar bill.
- Bald eagles grow up to 3 feet in height and 6.5 feet in wing span. They can live up to 28 years and fly up to 10,000 feet in the air. That's a powerful bird!
- National American Eagle Day is celebrated every June 20 to honor our national symbol and raise awareness about protecting the bald eagle.

### **Extension Activity**

- Flying American Eagle Race:
  - Line up the students in a straight line, shoulder to shoulder, in a spacious area, preferably outdoors.
  - Give the students a countdown to prepare for the race.
  - On the count of three, have the students gently toss their American Eagle paper airplanes. The airplane that flies and lands the farthest wins!
  - Before each round, ask a question related to the video content. The student who answers correctly advances one step in the next round.
  - Continue for as many rounds as time allows, ensuring each student has multiple chances to answer questions and toss their airplane.