

The Bald Eagle



Source: [Ben's Guide to US History](#)



The bald eagle became our national symbol in 1782. This particular bird was chosen because it represents strength. Not all of the Founding Fathers agreed. In fact, for more than 6 years, Congress debated the bald eagle as our national symbol. The most famous dissenter, Ben Franklin wrote this to a friend:

"I wish the bald eagle had not been chosen as the representative of our Country; he is a Bird of bad moral character; like those among Men who live by sharping and robbing, he is generally poor, and often very lousy.

The turkey is a much more respectable Bird and withal a true, original Native of America."

Can you imagine our Great Seal, the Post Office or other government symbols with the turkey? Roll your mouse over the eagle and see what you think!



To learn more about bald eagles, visit the [American Eagle Foundation](#).

Read about a [famous eagle](#).