

Nevada's State Symbols

Did you know that states have mascots? Well, they aren't really called mascots, but they are symbols that show what is important to a state and its citizens. State symbols are things or ideas that represent what is valued by each state. Many states have chosen a state flower, state colors, state song, and some have even chosen a state dog!

In 2009, a group of fourth grade students won a statewide contest to decide the state insect. The students from Beatty Elementary School in Las Vegas chose the Vivid Dancer Damselfly because of its silver and blue coloration which matches the official state colors. Senate Bill 166 of the 75th Legislative Session was voted on and passed by the Legislature and was signed into law by Governor Jim Gibbons.

In 2019, a group of 5th and 6th grade students at the Carson Montessori School noticed that Nevada did not have an official state element. They felt that this needed to change and decided that neon would be the perfect fit for Nevada's official state element. The students got to work and met with Nevada legislators to get their idea put into law. Assembly Bill 182 of the 80th Session was passed and neon was named the state element of Nevada.

These 4th, 5th and 6th grade students proved that ideas for bills can come from even the youngest citizens.

For this project, you will research and identify something that you feel would make a great state symbol for Nevada. This could be a state dog, a state food, a state constellation, a state dessert, a state poem, it can be anything! Just make sure that the symbol you choose represents Nevada. You will need to give reasons why your item or idea needs to be a new state symbol for Nevada. Use the following resources to help you organize your ideas as you work toward proposing a new state symbol for Nevada.



This is the state seal of Nevada and is one of Nevada's state symbols. The seal shows several images that represent Nevada and its rich history.

Idea for a new state symbol: _____

How does this new symbol represent the state of Nevada?

What are some reasons that this should become a new state symbol for Nevada? (List at least three reasons)

On the next page, write a paragraph sharing your opinion on the new state symbol you have selected and why you think that it would make a great official state symbol for Nevada.

