What is a Symbol?

A symbol is a picture or a design that represents an idea or a thing. They are everywhere!

Sports teams and universities show fancy writing or a drawing of a mascot to make people think of the team. Can you picture the fancy writing or drawing of a mascot that is connected to a sports team? Draw a picture of it.

Many people use emoji in place of words. Can you use emoji to send a message to someone? What pictures, or symbols might you choose? Draw your message in emojis on one piece of paper, and write the message out on another. Ask the person who received the emoji message to tell you what it says. Did the other person understand your symbols?

Companies often use symbols called logos to help people think about their business. Think of a symbol or logo for a company and draw it. Show it to someone else. Does that person recognize the symbol? Can the person name the company?
Some symbols are part of our culture. Do you know the common symbols for the words below? If you’d like, you can draw them in the boxes.

- peace
- the United States
- no smoking