The State Seal of Oklahoma

The State Seal of the State of Oklahoma is one such symbol. It was the office of Frank H. Greer in Guthrie that the Grand Seal of the Territory of Oklahoma was designed.

Frank H. Greer 1862-1933

It was the office of Frank H. Greer in Guthrie that the Grand Seal of the Territory of Oklahoma was designed. Greer was an influential citizen of the Oklahoma Territory, helping design the Territorial Seal and put forth the proposal for the seal before the Territorial Assembly.

You can see the Territorial Seal in the center of the Great Seal, surrounded by a green laurel. In the Territorial Seal, Columbia, a national symbol of equality, justice, and freedom, overlooks a pioneer and an American Indian shaking hands over the horn of plenty, a symbol of prosperity. This represented the equality and prosperity of both white and Indian settlers in Oklahoma, under the laws of the United States. Over the figures are the words, Labor omnia vincit, a Latin phrase meaning: labor conquers all. This phrase came from a 2,000-year-old poem written by a Roman poet named Virgil. This phrase had a special meaning for the people of Oklahoma who struggled to farm the difficult soil of the prairie.

COLUMBIA

The Great Seal took many years to create, and was inspired by many different historical events and peoples. It began with the Grand Seal of the Territory of Oklahoma, created by the Territorial Government, in 1893. Aside from designing seals, the Territorial Assembly was responsible for passing laws for the Oklahoma Territory. Frank H. Greer, a newspaper owner from Guthrie, OK, and an influential citizen of the Oklahoma Territory, helped design the Territorial Seal and put forth the proposal for the seal before the Territorial Assembly.

Territory of Oklahoma (Counties) and Indian Territory (Recording Districts), 1906

The parts of the State Seal outside of the old Territorial Seal were cut through during the redistricting convention of 1907. In 1921, the Oklahoma Health Department was established, and the names of Oklahoma and Indian Territory were added to the seal. These changes reflected the growth of the state's population and the increasing importance of public health. The State Seal is now a symbol of unity and national pride, representing the history and future of the State of Oklahoma.

Symbols are around us every day. From traffic signs, to images on coins, even school mascots and symbols. Some symbols mean only one thing, like a stop sign. But many symbols have more than one meaning. In some cases, a large, more prominent symbol can be made of smaller symbols that together mean something completely different than they would alone. The Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma is one such symbol.

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To learn more about the history of the Great Seal of Oklahoma or other interesting topics in Oklahoma history, visit the OHS Kids! section of the Oklahoma Historical Society webpage at www.okhistory.org/kids.

Seals have been used for thousands of years. Many seals share similar designs. For example, the back of quarters has a piece of the Great Seal of the United States on it. It shows an eagle holding an olive branch and arrows. The olive branch has been a symbol of peace for thousands of years. Why the arrows? A symbol of war. This means that Great Seal of the United States says that the nation wants peace, but is prepared for war.

Take a moment to look back at Oklahoma’s seal. Then, use the Template to design your own!

Don’t Forget!
1. Seals use symbols and figures
2. Seals often have sayings like “Labor Omnia Vincit” written on them

When you’re finished designing your seal, show it to your friends, parents, or teacher and explain to them why the symbols and sayings you’ve used are important to you!