



Glory or Constellation of Stars 

symbolizes a new nation taking its place among other sovereign states.

Bald Eagle 

stands for courage, strength, alertness, and nobility. Its open wings, with tips up (a position called "displayed") signify protection.

Shield or Escutcheon 

as a whole represents the nation. The stripes symbolize the states united under a blue bar representing Congress. The unsupported shield reflects the value of the U.S. standing alone on its own virtue.

Olive Branch 

has for millennia stood for peace and harmony. With the arrows, the olive branch denotes the powers of peace and war.

E Pluribus Unum 

means "out of many, one," and reflects the many individuals and colonies that form the United States.

The Number 13

denotes the 13 original states. The arrows, stripes in the shield and stars in the constellation are also 13 in number.

Arrows 

are an ancient symbol of readiness for battle. With the olive branch, the arrows denote the powers of peace and war.

Red, White, and Blue

are the colors of the American flag. White stands for purity and innocence; red for hardiness and valor; and blue for vigilance, perseverance and justice.

All parts of the Seal design, from eagle and shield to pyramid and mottoes, held distinct meanings for the founders of our nation.



Eye of Providence 

appears on the highest point of the pyramid, with rays of glory surrounding it. The designers did not specify a right or left eye. The pyramid signifies strength and duration.

13 Step Pyramid 

signifies strength and duration. Traditionally drawn with thirteen levels, but no particular number was specified in the original design.

The motto ANNUIT CŒPTIS

means "Providence favors (or has favored) our undertakings." The eye alludes to the many interventions of providence that Founding Fathers perceived to have favored the American cause.

The motto NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM

and Date, literally mean "A new order of the ages," but referred to the beginning of a New American era. The date, 1776 in Roman numerals, refers to the year of the Declaration, when the new American era began.