

# State Symbols

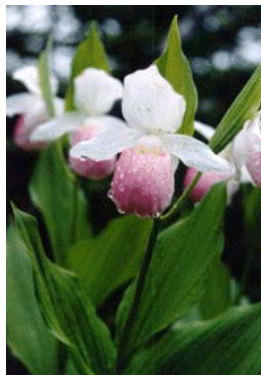
## Pre-reading

### Questions:

- What do you know about state symbols?

### Definitions:

- Symbol – an object or picture that represents something
- Various – of many different kinds
- Elements – a part of a whole
- Excerpt – a short section



## Reading

17 Every state has its specific license plate. Every state also has its own state flag and state  
32 flower. Many states have other state symbols as well. These symbols describe various elements of  
47 the state. Do you know the state symbols of Minnesota? The following descriptions are excerpts  
from a pamphlet called “Minnesota Fun Facts”.

### Minnesota Symbols

#### State Bird

56 The common loon is Minnesota’s state bird. Its name comes from a Norwegian word that  
58 means “wild, sad cry”. Loons are black and white birds with red eyes and long black bills.  
74 Thousands of loons make their home in central and northern Minnesota.  
91 (Some people think the mosquito would have been a better choice for the state bird!)

#### State Flower

117 The pink and white lady slipper is Minnesota’s state flower. It is one of Minnesota’s rarest  
119 wildflowers. Lady slippers thrive in swamps, bogs, and damp woods. They grow slowly,  
135 taking 4 to 16 years to produce their first flower. Sometimes they live for 50 years and grow  
149 four feet tall. They bloom in late June or early July. Since 1925, this flower has been protected  
165 by state law. It is illegal to pick the pink and white lady slipper.  
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#### State Tree

197 The Norway pine is Minnesota’s state tree. It is also known as the red pine because of its  
199 reddish brown bark. It is a huge tree! Many grow 60 to 100 feet tall with a three to five feet  
217 wide trunk. These trees are popular for Christmas trees when they are small.  
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