



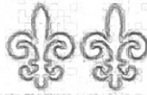
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Detroit's Official Symbols

Flags and seals are ways in which a city or country shows their history, their hopes and their values. The City of Detroit has both a flag and a seal and each uses symbols to tell the city's story.

Detroit's Official Flag

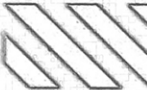
Designer David E. Henshaw designed the city's flag in 1907. Although it was first flown on June 12, 1908 at Fenwick Day, a celebration honoring the Detroit Baseball Club, the flag was not officially adopted until 1948.



The flag is divided into five sections - four quadrants with a circle in the middle. The center section depicts the city's official seal. The remaining sections symbolize the different countries that have controlled Detroit throughout its history.



The lower left quadrant features a white background with the fleur-de-la-flor, which is a stylized flower that is often associated with France. In the Detroit flag, this section represents the French founding of Detroit in 1701 and its occupation by French colonial rulers until 1763.



The upper right quadrant shows a red background with three gold bars. The bars are from England's official coat of arms and this section represents the British occupation of Detroit from 1763-1796 and from 1812-1816.



The lower right quadrant consists of thirteen red and white stripes, which are borrowed from the American flag. This section represents the American occupation of Detroit from 1796 to 1812.

The upper left quadrant has a blue background with thirteen stars. Also borrowed from the American flag, this section represents the American control of the city from 1812 to the present, with the stars representing the original 13 colonies.

Detroit's Official Seal

The City of Detroit's official seal was created by artist J.O. Lewis in 1917. Trained as an engraver and a printer, Lewis received a special payment of five dollars for his service.

The Great Fire of 1805, which destroyed the city center. The woman on the left, clothed by James, represents the city's recovery and rebuilding. The woman on the right, holding a torch, represents the city's progress and generating the wealth of the city.

The motto, written in Latin, "We Hope for Better" is inscribed on the banner. This motto expresses the city's determination to overcome its challenges and build a better future.

