Guatemalan Flag
By Vanderbilt Center for Latin American Studies

Guatemala is a country in the middle of Central America. Like other countries, it has a flag that symbolizes the nation. Like all flags, there are specific meanings behind the colors and objects on the Guatemalan flag. One sky blue stripe represents the two oceans on either side of Guatemala – the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. The other sky blue stripe represents the sky over the country, something that is also mentioned in the national anthem. The white in the middle represents peace and purity.

The image in the middle is the national coat of arms, a symbol that can represent a person, family, business, or country. In the coat of arms, the two crossed rifles represent the ability of the country to defend itself if necessary while the circle of olive branches represent a preference for peace. The scroll has the date of Guatemala’s Independence Day when it became a separate country from Spain on September 15, 1821. The green and red bird is the national bird, called a “quetzal,” and symbolizes liberty.