### Wreaths Across America

#### Lesson Plan

**Teacher:**

**Date:**

**Grade:** K-8

**Lesson:** Facts about the United States Flag; Flag Day Materials for multiple grade levels

### OBJECTIVES: NCSSS; 10. CIVIC IDEALS AND PRACTICES

An understanding of civic ideals and practices is critical to full participation in society and is an essential component of education for citizenship. This theme enables students to learn about the rights and responsibilities of citizens of a democracy, and to appreciate the importance of active citizenship.

### STRATEGIES:

- Drawing/Coloring
- Reading/Writing
- Think/Pair/Share
- Collaboration
- Discussion Questions
- Small Groups
- Large Group

### MATERIALS:

- Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; Printer/Copier. This lesson plan has materials and activities that cover a multitude of grade levels K-8; it is suggested that you review the materials and select the ones that are most appropriate for your students.

### Engage: Hook the students

**Video Clips:**

- **Grades K-3:** F is for Flag, Author-Wendy Cheyette Lewison, Illustrator-Barbara Duke; [https://youtu.be/ja37jgbacOs](https://youtu.be/ja37jgbacOs)
- **Grades 4-6:** Reading Through History, Flag Day and Flag Etiquette (Original Version); [https://youtu.be/d_GWwfzfd4](https://youtu.be/d_GWwfzfd4)
- **Grades 7 & Up:** Drexel University, National Constitution Center, The History of the U.S. Flag; [https://youtu.be/UONq4YCF4R4](https://youtu.be/UONq4YCF4R4)

### Explore: Students make sense of a concept through observations.

- **Grades K-1:** Read Aloud the “Facts About the Flag of the United States” and “Other Interesting Flag Facts”; Play the Pledge of Allegiance with Mrs. Willey video [https://youtu.be/q5NurQjpFTw](https://youtu.be/q5NurQjpFTw)
- **Create Your Own Flag Book, The Flag of the United States of America Writing Practice**
- **Grades 2-3:** Read Aloud the “Facts About the Flag of the United States” and “Other Interesting Flag Facts”; Play the Pledge of Allegiance with Mrs. Willey video [https://youtu.be/q5NurQjpFTw](https://youtu.be/q5NurQjpFTw)
- **Writing an Acrostic Poem-US Flag; Color the Betsy Ross Coloring Sheet; Flag Day Wordsearch; Color the Picture and Write the Story Worksheet**
- **Grades 4-6:** Read the “Facts About the Flag of the United States” and “Other Interesting Flag Facts”; Complete the Old Glory Acrostic Poem-US Flag; Color the Betsy Ross Coloring Sheet; Flag Day Wordsearch; 13 Colonies=13 Stripes Wordsearch
- **Grades 7-8:** Read the “Facts About the Flag of the United States” and “Other Interesting Flag Facts”; Complete the Questions Stars and Stripes Acrostic Poem Worksheet

### Explain: Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.

**Vocabulary will vary by grade level.**

### Elaborate/Evaluate:

- **Students apply what they have learned.**

### Enrichment/Service-Learning Project

- Wave your American Flags on Tuesday mornings at 8:00 am ET with Wreaths Across America. You can share by using the hashtag #wepledgeallegiance

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*Remember-Honor-Teach*
Facts About the Flag of the United States

One of the most recognized symbols of freedom in the world today is the Flag of the United States of America. Nicknames for the United States Flag:

- Stars and Stripes
- Old Glory
- The Star-Spangled Banner
- The Red, White, and Blue
- The American Flag

When the American Revolution started in 1775, the militias who were fighting to oppose the British did not have an official flag. Some used flags-like the Gadsden Flag, better known as the “Don’t Tread On Me” flag, or some variation of the flag, as seen below.
Another unofficial flag of the Continental Army was known as the Continental Colours, the Grand Union Flag, the Cambridge Flag, the Somerville Flag, or the Union Flag. George Washington, Commander of the Continental Army, did not think the flag was good for the moral of the troops, due its similarity to the British Union Jack flag.

July 4, 1776, leaders of the 13 British colonies declared independence from Great Britain, by signing the Declaration of Independence.

Almost a year later, on June 14, 1777, the Second Continental Congress passed The Flag Act of 1777, a resolution declaring the flag of the United States “be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.” This flag is referred to as the Betsy Ross flag.

Although Betsy Ross is often given credit for making the first “official” flag of the United States, there are those who believe the flag was designed by Francis Hopkinson, from New Jersey, one of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence.
The flag underwent changes once again on May 1, 1795, when Congress enacted the second Flag Resolution Act. The Flag Resolution mandated that “new stars and stripes be added to the flag when new states were admitted to the Union.” Vermont and Kentucky were admitted to the Union, in 1791 and 1792, respectively.

Mary Pickersgill made the flag that flew on Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. In September 1814, Francis Scott Key was on a British ship watching as the British bomb Fort McHenry. The experience inspired Key to author a poem, that years later in 1931, would become the basis for the National Anthem of the United States of America. The first stanza is as follows:

“O say can you see, by the dawn’s early light,
    What so proudly we hail’d at the twilight’s last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight
    O’er the ramparts we watch’d were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket’s red glare, the bomb bursting in air,
    Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
    O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?”

By 1818, five more states had been admitted to the Union. On April 4, 1818, Congress enacted the third and final Flag Resolution:

“An Act to establish the flag of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress Assembled, That from and after the fourth day of July next, the flag of the United States be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white: that the union be twenty stars, white in a blue field.

And be it further enacted, That on the admission of every new state into the Union, one star be added to the union of the flag; and that such addition shall take effect of the fourth day of July then next succeeding such admission.”
Other Interesting Flag Facts

- During the Civil War, the Confederate States of America adopted their own flag, referred to as the Stars and Bars, or the Southern Cross.

- On June 14, 1885, Bernard Cigrand, a grade schoolteacher in Waubeka, Wisconsin held the first formal observance of flag day. Cigrand would spend much of his life devoted to promoting a national observance of Flag Day.

- In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day. On August 3, 1949, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress.

- In 1958, a Lancaster High School history teacher in Ohio, Stanley Pratt, assigned a project to his students to make anything they wanted to and to bring it to class for a show-and-tell. One of Pratt’s students, 17-year-old Bob Heft had the idea to create a United States flag with 50 stars. At the time, there were only 48 states, but there was talk that Alaska and Hawaii would soon be added to the Union. Heft borrowed his grandmother’s sewing machine, disassembled her family 48-star flag and reassembled the flag with 50 stars in a proportional pattern.
  
- Pratt was not impressed with Heft’s project and gave him a B- on the assignment. He told Heft that if he wanted to improve the grade, he should send it to Washington and get it approved there. Heft gave the flag to his congressman, Walter Moeller, who presented it to President Eisenhower after Alaska and Hawaii had joined the Union. Eisenhower selected Heft’s design, and on July 4, 1960, the president and the high school student stood together as the 50-star flag was raised for the first time. Pratt immediately changed Heft’s grade from a B- to an A.

- During the hoisting or lowering of the flag or when it passes in parade or review, Americans should stand at attention facing the flag and place their right hand over the heart. Uniformed military members render the military salute. Men not in uniform should remove any headdress and hold it with their right hand at their left shoulder, the hand resting over the heart. Those who are not U.S. citizens should stand at attention.

- There have been 27 versions of the Flag of the United States of America, 25 of those involved changes in the number and design of the stars.
Grades K-1  The Flag of the United States of America Writing Practice

My United States Flag Book

Name

Remember-Honor-Teach
The flag of the United States has many nicknames: Old Glory, Stars and Stripes, Star Spangled Banner, the American Flag, and the Red.
White, and Blue.

Old Glory has thirteen stripes, one for each of the original colonies, and 50 stars, one for each state.

Remember-Honor-Teach
Betsy Ross Flag

The stars are white on blue; the stripes are red and white.

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Wreaths Across America
Lesson Plan

Teacher:  
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Date:  
Lesson: Facts about the United States Flag; Flag Day Materials for multiple grade levels

Flag Day June 14

Remember-Honor-Teach
GRADES K-3
When you say the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, you should stand at attention with your right hand over your heart.

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
Wreaths Across America
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Grades 2-3 Writing an Acrostic Poem
An Acrostic Poem is a poem where certain letters in each line spell out a word or phrase. See the example below, then create your own Acrostic Poem using the letters in the box at the bottom of the page!

D ASHING, BARKING, RUNNING ALL
O VER THE PLACE-BUT HE IS THE
G REATEST FRIEND I COULD EVER HAVE!!

Remember-Honor-Teach
Wreaths Across America
Lesson Plan

<table>
<thead>
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This coloring page of BETSY ROSS was the first in a series of coloring pages celebrating the bicentennial of the United States. The series ran in some newspapers from July of 1975 to May of 1976 and was titled "The Spirit of 1776".

Remember-Honor-Teach
Flag Day Wordsearch Puzzle

Find and Circle the words in the puzzle from the list below.

Q  Z  O  L  D  G  L  O  R  Y
A  W  P  S  X  A  E  C  E  Z
V  F  L  A  G  H  V  B  D  K
J  P  P  L  E  D  G  E  R  O
W  X  H  U  V  M  T  X  A  E
H  W  S  T  A  R  S  C  B  P
I  U  R  E  G  B  F  P  L  W
T  I  Y  J  G  E  S  V  U  B
E  O  D  S  T  R  I  P  E  S
Z  A  M  E  R  I  C  A  N  J

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RED</th>
<th>WHITE</th>
<th>BLUE</th>
<th>FLAG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OLD GLORY</td>
<td>STARS</td>
<td>STRIPES</td>
<td>AMERICAN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SALUTE</td>
<td>PLEDGE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remember-Honor-Teach
Flag Day Wordsearch Puzzle

Find and Circle the words in the puzzle from the list below.

Answer Key

Q Z O L D G L O R Y
A W P S X A E C E Z
V F L A G H V B D K
J P P L E D G E R O
W X H U V M T X A E
H W S T A R S C B P
I U R E G B F P L W
T I Y J G E S V Ü B
E O D S T R I P E S
Z A M E R I C A N J

<table>
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Remember-Honor-Teach
COLOR THE PICTURE & WRITE A STORY ABOUT THE PICTURE IN THE BOX BELOW! Use the brief introduction to start your story!!

Anna was ready to

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Remember-Honor-Teach
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Grades 4-6 13 Original Colonies=13 Stripes Wordsearch

Find and Circle the 13 Original Colonies listed below:

Connecticut  Delaware  Georgia  Maryland  Massachusetts  New Hampshire  New Jersey
New York  North Carolina  Pennsylvania  Rhode Island  South Carolina  Virginia

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Wreaths Across America
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### 13 Original Colonies = 13 Stripes Wordsearch

**Answer Key**

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |

- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Georgia
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- Virginia

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Flag Day Facts Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1. President who issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day in 1916
2. Student whose history project became our flag
3. one of several nicknames for the US Flag
5. one of three colors in the American Flag
6. authored poem that became National Anthem
9. August 3, 1949, National Flag Day was established by an Act of __________________________
11. one name for the Confederate flag
12. number of stars on the American flag
13. number of stripes on the American flag

DOWN
1. place of the first formal observance of Flag Day
3. one of several nicknames for the US Flag
4. battle that inspired the writing of the National Anthem
5. given credit for sewing the first US Flag
7. the month Flag Day is celebrated
8. one of three colors in the American Flag
10. one of three colors in the American Flag

Remember-Honor-Teach
Lesson Plan

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Flag Day Facts Crossword Puzzle
Answer Key

Remember-Honor-Teach
Write an acrostic poem about the American flag using the letters below. An acrostic poem is a poem where certain letters in each line spell out a word or phrase.

O
L
D
G
L
O
R
Y

Remember-Honor-Teach
GRADES 7 & 8   Facts About the Flag of the United States
List 4 nicknames of the Flag of the United States of America:

1. 
2. 
3. 
4.

Describe each of the three flag resolutions in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHEN</th>
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<th>PURPOSE</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>6.</td>
<td>7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>9.</td>
<td>10.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

14. Who organized the first Flag Day Observance program?

Remember-Honor-Teach
15. What was the inspiration for Francis Scott Key to author the poem that later inspired the National Anthem of the United States?

16. Which lines in the National Anthem confirm your answer to number 15?

17. In your own words, who was Bob Heft? What did he do?

18. Why did Commander of the Continental Army, George Washington oppose the Continental Colours flag?

19. What is the proper flag protocol for non-military personnel?

20. Out of the 27 changes to the American Flag, how many of those changes have involved changes in the number of stars on the flag?
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ANSWER KEY

Facts About the Flag of the United States

List 4 nicknames of the Flag of the United States of America:

1. **ANY 4 of the following**: Stars and Stripes, Old Glory, Red, White and Blue, Star-Spangled Banner, the American Flag

2. 

3. 

4. 

Describe each of the three flag resolutions in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHEN</th>
<th>NAME</th>
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<tr>
<td>5. June 14, 1777</td>
<td>6. Flag Act of 1777</td>
<td>7. Flag Act of 1777, a resolution declaring the flag of the United States “be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. May 1, 1795</td>
<td>9. Flag Resolution Act</td>
<td>10. The Flag Resolution Act mandated that “new stars and stripes be added to the flag when new states were admitted to the Union.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. April 4, 1818</td>
<td>12. Flag Resolution Act</td>
<td>13. That from and after the fourth day of July next, the flag of the United States be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white: that the union be twenty stars, white in a blue field. <em>And be it further enacted,</em> That on the admission of every new state into the Union, one star be added to the union of the flag; and that such addition shall take effect of the fourth day of July then next succeeding such admission.”</td>
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14. Who organized the first Flag Day Observance program? **Bernard Cigrand**

15. What was the inspiration for Francis Scott Key to author the poem that later inspired the National Anthem of the United States? **the flag that flew on Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. In September 1814, Francis Scott Key was on a British ship watching as the British bombed Fort McHenry.**
16. Which lines in the National Anthem confirm your answer to number 15?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight
O’er the ramparts we watch’d were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket’s red glare, the bomb bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?"

17. In your own words, who was Bob Heft? What did he do?
In 1958, seventeen-year-old Bob Heft, had the idea to create a United States flag with 50 stars for a History project he was assigned by his teacher, Stanley Pratt. At the time, there were only 48 states, but there was talk that Alaska and Hawaii would soon be added to the Union. Heft borrowed his grandmother’s sewing machine, disassembled her family 48-star flag and reassembled the flag with 50 stars in a proportional pattern. Pratt was not impressed with Heft’s project and gave him a B- on the assignment. He told Heft that if he wanted to improve the grade, he should send it to Washington and get it approved there. Heft gave the flag to his congressman, Walter Moeller, who presented it to President Eisenhower after Alaska and Hawaii had joined the Union. Eisenhower selected Heft’s design, and on July 4, 1960, the president and the high school student stood together as the 50-star flag was raised for the first time. Pratt immediately changed Heft’s grade from a B- to an A.

18. Why did Commander of the Continental Army, George Washington oppose the Continental Colours flag?
George Washington did not think the flag was good for the moral of the troops, due its similarity to the British Union Jack flag.

19. What is the proper flag protocol for non-military personnel?
During the raising or lowering of the flag or when it passes in parade or review, Americans should stand at attention facing the flag and place their right hand over the heart. Men not in uniform should remove any headdress and hold it with their right hand at their left shoulder, the hand resting over the heart. Those who are not U.S. citizens should stand at attention.

20. Out of the 27 changes to the American Flag, how many of those changes have involved changes in the number of stars on the flag?
25
Write an **acrostic poem** about the American flag using the letters below. An acrostic poem is a poem where certain letters in each line spell out a word or phrase.

| S | T | A | R | S | A | N | D | S | T | R | I | P | E | S |

*Remember-Honor-Teach*