

7th & 8th Grades Lesson Plan Flag Day



Wreaths Across America

Lesson Plan

Teacher:	Date:
Grade: 7-8	Lesson: Flag Day

<p>OBJECTIVES: NCSS; 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.</p>	<p>STRATEGIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing/Coloring <input type="checkbox"/> Reading/Writing <input type="checkbox"/> Think/Pair/Share <input type="checkbox"/> Collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Comprehension Questions <input type="checkbox"/> Small Groups <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry 									
<p>MATERIALS:</p>	<p>Computer/laptop; internet (with access to YouTube); Smart Board; copies of the American Flag K-L-W-H; copies Facts About the American Flag; copies Other Interesting Flag Facts; copies Facts About the American Flag Questions; copies American Flag Crossword Puzzle; copies Stars and Stripes Acrostic Poem Worksheet</p>									
<p>Engage: Hook the students</p>	<p>Hand out copies of the American Flag K-L-W-H. Allow students time to complete sections 1 & 2. Play the YouTube video, American Flag Rap, by Smart Songs, https://youtu.be/HQJPEQwpK0E</p>									
<p>Explore: Students make sense of a concept through observations.</p>	<p>Hand out copies of the “Facts About the American Flag” and “Other Interesting Flag Facts”. Hand out copies of the Facts About the American Flag Questions. Allow students time to complete the questions. Hand out copies of the American Flag Cross Word Puzzle. Allow students time to complete the crossword puzzle. Play the YouTube Video, “The United States of America's Flag and its Story” by Wanderlust Wisdom: Travel, History, & Science https://youtu.be/pNR7efs5jP8 Hand out copies of the Stars and Stripes Acrostic Poem Worksheet. Allow students time to complete the acrostic poem. Discuss what it means to be a good citizen. Allow students time to complete the K-W-L-H worksheet.</p>									
<p>Explain: Teacher introduces formal vocabulary and language to students.</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">militia</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Revolutionary War</td> <td style="width: 33%;">resolution</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Continental Army</td> <td>constellation</td> <td>Francis Scott Key</td> </tr> <tr> <td>George Washington</td> <td>War of 1812</td> <td>Star Spangled Banner</td> </tr> </table>	militia	Revolutionary War	resolution	Continental Army	constellation	Francis Scott Key	George Washington	War of 1812	Star Spangled Banner
militia	Revolutionary War	resolution								
Continental Army	constellation	Francis Scott Key								
George Washington	War of 1812	Star Spangled Banner								
<p>Elaborate/Evaluate: Students apply what they have learned.</p>	<p>Students learn about the rights and responsibilities of citizens of a democracy, and to appreciate the importance of active citizenship by completing the materials and activities in this lesson plan.</p>									
<p>Evaluate: Assessment</p>	<p>The teacher will determine the activities that will be utilized for formal and informal assessment.</p>									
<p>Enrichment/Service-Learning Project</p>	<p>Participate in the tradition started by the Freeport Flag Ladies of waving the American Flag and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Share your class or your school participating in this event by documenting your participation and sharing it with others around the world! #FlagsAcrossTheCountry share it here See the last page of the lesson plan for more information.</p>									

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Name _____

The American Flag K-W-L-H

What I KNOW:	
What I WANT to KNOW:	
What I LEARNED:	
How will what I learned make me a better Citizen?	

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Facts About the American Flag

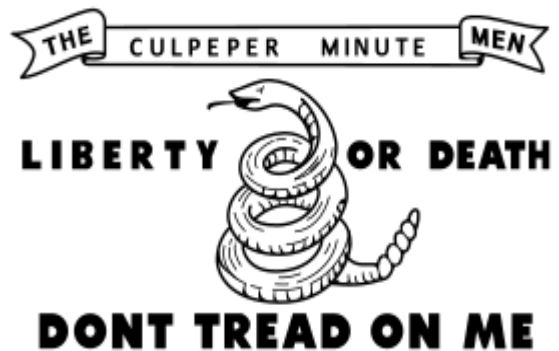


One of the most recognized symbols of freedom in the world today is the Flag of the United States of America.

Nicknames for the United States Flag:

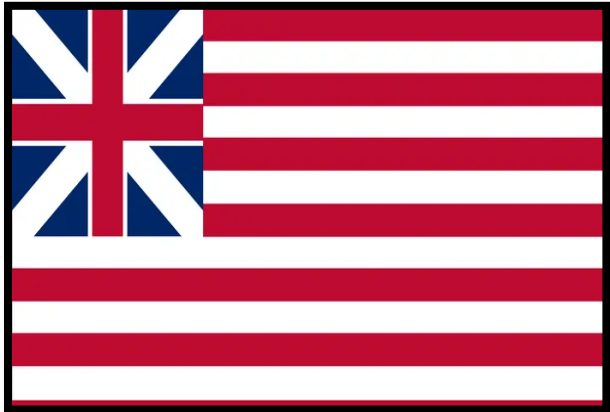
- Stars and Stripes
- Old Glory
- The Star-Spangled Banner
- The Red, White, and Blue
- The American Flag

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.



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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.

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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 bombed 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.”

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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.

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Name _____

Facts About the American Flag Questions

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.

WHEN	NAME	PURPOSE
5.	6.	7.
8.	9.	10.
11.	12.	13.

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14. Who organized the first Flag Day Observance program?

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 American Flag Questions

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.

WHEN	NAME	PURPOSE
5. June 14, 1777	6. Flag Act of 1777	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.
8. May 1, 1795	9. Flag Resolution Act	10. The Flag Resolution Act mandated that “new stars and stripes be added to the flag when new states were admitted to the Union.”
11. April 4, 1818	12. Flag Resolution Act	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. <i>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.”</i>

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.**

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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

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1										3			
2													
11													

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1W	O	O	D	R	O	W	W	I	L	3S	O	N	
A										T			4F
U				5B	L	U	E			A			O
2B	O	B	H	E	F	T				R			R
E				T						S			T
K				S				7J		A			M
A		6K	E	Y	S			U		N			C
	8W			R				N		D			H
	H		9C	O	N	G	10R	E	S	S			E
	I			S			E			T			N
11S	T	A	R	S	A	N	D	B	A	R	S		R
	E								12F	I	F	T	Y
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			13T	H	I	R	T	E	E	N			
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**Flag Day Facts
Crossword
Puzzle**
Answer Key

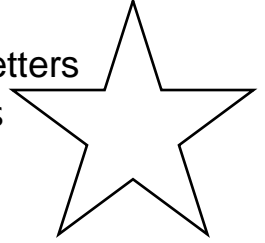
ACROSS	DOWN
1. President who issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day in 1916	1. place of the first formal observance of Flag Day
2. Student whose history project became our flag	3. one of several nicknames for the US Flag
5. one of three colors in the American Flag	4. battle that inspired the writing of the National Anthem
6. authored poem that became National Anthem	5. given credit for sewing the first US Flag
9. August 3, 1949, National Flag Day was established by an Act of _____	7. the month Flag Day is celebrated
11. one name for the Confederate flag	8. one of three colors in the American Flag
12. number of stars on the American flag	10. one of three colors in the American Flag
13. number of stripes on the American flag	

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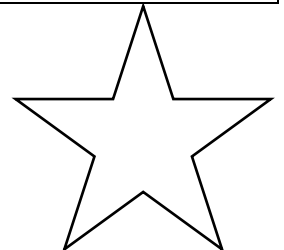
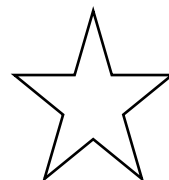
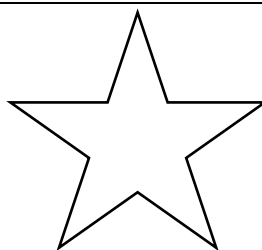
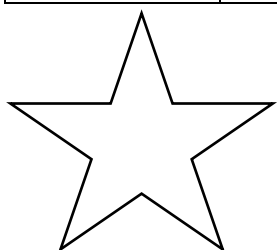
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Write an **acrostic poem** about the American flag using the letters below. An acrostic poem is a poem where certain letters in each line spell out a word or phrase.



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



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Enrichment/Service-Learning Project

The Battle of Baltimore inspired the lyrics of lawyer and poet Francis Scott Key in 1814. “O, say, can you see by the dawn’s early light what so proudly we hailed through the twilight’s last gleaming...” The waving American flag before, during, and after the fight was seen as a source of inspiration and resilience.

The red, white, and blue stars and stripes, also named “Old Glory,” have long symbolized patriotism, unity, and the spirit of pride in our nation.

Every Tuesday, Wreaths Across America encourages people all over the nation to take a moment to reflect on the common ground that unites us and say the Pledge of Allegiance. The Tuesday flag-waving tradition, now faithfully carried out on Route 1 in Jonesboro, Maine, was started by the Freeport Flag Ladies in 2001 following the terrorist attacks of 9-11-2001. The [Freeport Flag Ladies](#) waved flags for over 900 Tuesdays until they retired in 2019.

A monument to the flag ladies stands on the site, and individuals and groups are welcome to gather every Tuesday morning at 9:00 AM (Eastern) in person to raise and lower the flag during the pledge ceremony.

Anyone can raise the flag on Tuesday mornings and recite the pledge with us, and Wreaths Across America encourages you to document your participation and share it with the nation.

#FlagsAcrosstheCountry [share it here](#).