

Flags Facts and Timeline

1776

January 1 -- The *Grand Union* flag is displayed on Prospect Hill. It has 13 alternate red and white stripes and the British Union Jack in the upper left-hand corner (the canton).

1776

May -- Betsy Ross reports that she sewed the first American flag

1777

June 14 -- Continental Congress adopts the following: Resolved: that 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.(stars represent Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island)

1787

Captain Robert Gray carries the flag around the world on his sailing vessel (around the tip of South America, to China, and beyond). He discovered a great river and named it after his boat *The Columbia*. His discovery was the basis of America's claim to the Oregon Territory.

1795

Flag with 15 stars and 15 stripes (Vermont, Kentucky)

1814

September 14 -- Francis Scott Key writes "The Star-Spangled Banner." It officially becomes the national anthem in 1931.

1818

Flag with 20 stars and 13 stripes (it remains at 13 hereafter) (Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana, Mississippi)

1819

Flag with 21 stars (Illinois)

1820

Flag with 23 stars (Alabama, Maine)
First flag on Pikes Peak

1822

Flag with 24 stars (Missouri)

1836

Flag with 25 stars (Arkansas)

1837

Flag with 26 stars (Michigan)

1845

Flag with 27 stars (Florida)

1846

Flag with 28 stars (Texas)

1847

Flag with 29 stars (Iowa)

1848

Flag with 30 stars (Wisconsin)

1851

Flag with 31 stars (California)

1858

Flag with 32 stars (Minnesota)

1859

Flag with 33 stars (Oregon)

1861

Flag with 34 stars; (Kansas) first Confederate Flag (Stars and Bars) adopted in Montgomery, Alabama

1863

Flag with 35 stars (West Virginia)

1865

Flag with 36 stars (Nevada)

1867

Flag with 37 stars (Nebraska)

1869

First flag on a postage stamp

1877

Flag with 38 stars (Colorado)

1890

Flag with 43 stars (North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington, Idaho)

1891

Flag with 44 stars (Wyoming)

1892

"Pledge of Allegiance" first published in a magazine called "The Youth's Companion," written by Francis Bellamy. The words, "under God" were added on June 14, 1954.

1896

Flag with 45 stars (Utah)

1908

Flag with 46 stars (Oklahoma)

1909

Robert Peary places the flag his wife sewed atop the North Pole. He left pieces of another flag along the way. He was never censured for his action.

1912

Flag with 48 stars (New Mexico, Arizona)

1945

The flag that flew over Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, is flown over the White House on August 14, when the Japanese accepted surrender terms.

1949

August 3 -- Truman signs bill requesting the President call for Flag Day (June 14) observance each year by proclamation.

1959

Flag with 49 stars (Alaska)

1960

Flag with 50 stars (Hawaii)

1963

Flag placed on top of Mount Everest by Barry Bishop.

1969

July 20 -- The American flag is placed on the moon by Neil Armstrong.

1995

December 12 -- The Flag Desecration Constitutional Amendment is narrowly defeated in the Senate. The Amendment to the Constitution would make burning the flag a punishable crime.