

# THE FLAG

USA



**History, Display, Respect**



Webelos Citizen activity badge

# HISTORY OF THE FLAG



Citizen Activity Badge #2

## Betsy Ross's story . . .

Betsy would often tell her children, grandchildren, relatives, and friends that in May 1776 three members of a secret committee from the Continental Congress (George Washington, Robert Morris, and George Ross) asked her to sew the first flag.

At the time, Betsy Ross was a widow struggling to run her own upholstery business. (Upholsterers in colonial America not only worked on furniture but did all manner of sewing work.) She knew George Ross, her husband's nephew, and General and Mrs. Washington were acquaintances from church.

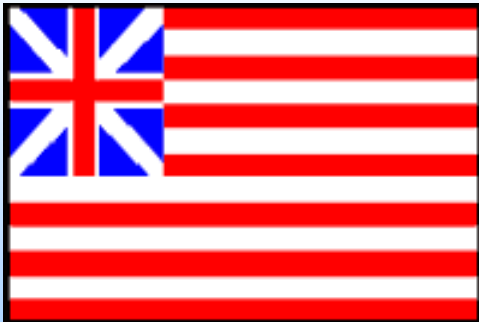
According to Betsy, General Washington showed her a rough design of the flag that included a six-pointed star. Betsy, a standout with the scissors, demonstrated how to cut a five-pointed star *in a single snip*. Impressed, the committee entrusted Betsy with making our first flag.



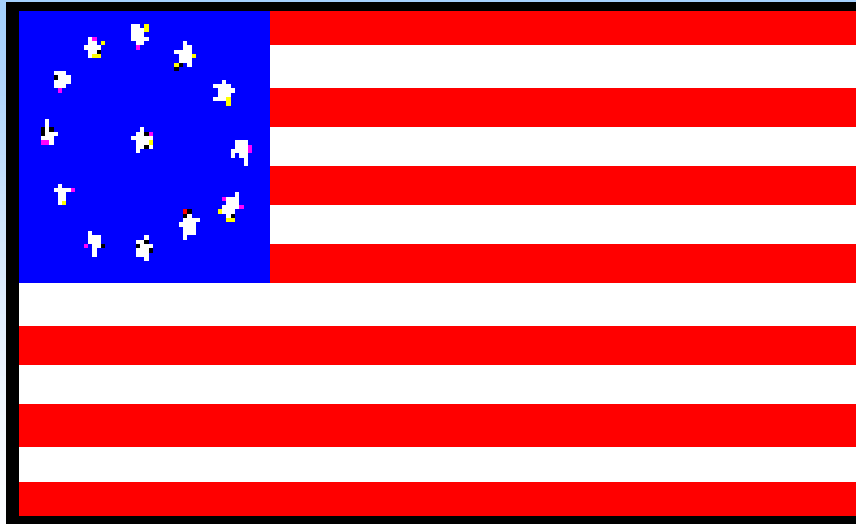
Until that time, colonies and militias used many different flags. Some are famous, such as the "Rattlesnake Flag" used by the Continental Navy, with its venomous challenge, "Don't Tread on Me."



Another naval flag had a green pine tree on a white background. The one shown here is the "Liberty Tree" flag.



Other flags were quite similar to Britain's Union Jack or incorporated elements of it. A picture of the "Grand Union" flag is shown here.



On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress, seeking to promote national pride and unity, adopted the national flag. "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."

# Quiz: History of the Flag

Who was asked to sew the first flag?

Why did the Continental Congress adopt this flag as our national flag?

- a) To promote national pride and unity
- b) Red, white and blue matched the colors of their offices.
- c) No one likes flags with snakes on them.

Make a 5-pointed star out of paper with a single snip.



## The United States Flag:

- a) What colors does the US Flag have?
- b) How many stars are on the current flag?  
What do the stars symbolize?
- c) How many stripes are on the flag?  
What colors are the stripes?  
What do the stripes symbolize?
- d) How do you show respect for the United States flag?



US Heritage Award #4

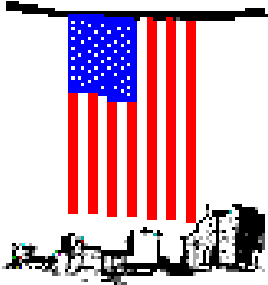


# DISPLAYING THE FLAG

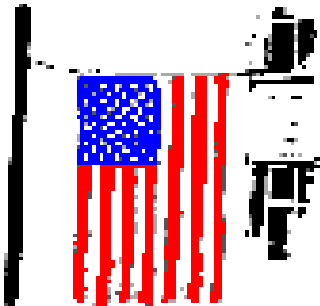


Citizen Activity Badge #2

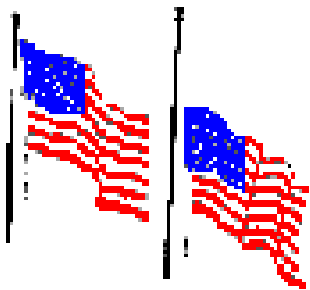
## DISPLAYING THE FLAG



When the flag is displayed over the middle of the street, it should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.



When the flag is suspended over a sidewalk from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.



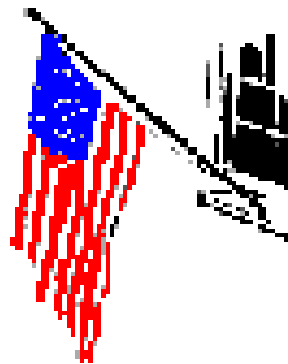
When the flag of the United States is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff.



No flags of States, cities, or localities, or pennants of societies may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the right of the flag of the United States. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last.



The flag of the United States of America, when it is displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, should be on the right, the flag's own right (viewer's left) and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.



The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. By "half-staff" is meant lowering the flag to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff.

## **ACTIVITIES: Flag demonstrations**

1. Each team will demonstrate the proper way to display a flag if hanging it on a wall.
2. With a partner, demonstrate how to hoist and lower the flag.

## FOLDING THE FLAG

Citizen Activity Badge #2

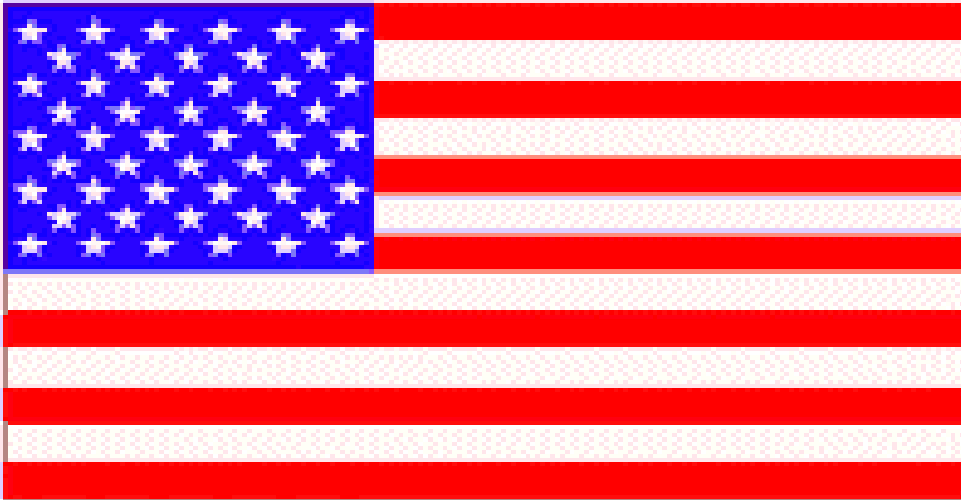
Bring the striped half up over the blue field.

Then fold it in half again.

Bring the lower striped corner to the upper edge forming a triangle.

Then fold the upper point in to form another triangle. Continue until the entire length of the flag is folded.

When you get near the end - nothing but the blue field showing - tuck the last bit into the other folds to secure it.



### Activity:

Pick a partner.

Demonstrate how to properly fold the flag.

## Quiz: Displaying the Flag

What side should the blue field face when hanging a flag vertically?

- a) to the viewer's left
- b) to the flag's right
- c) both a and b

Flying a flag at half-staff means:

- a) lowering the flag to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff.
- b) Breaking the pole in half before displaying the flag.

When folded properly, the red and white stripes of the American flag are folded inside with only the blue field showing.      True      False

# SALUTING THE FLAG



Citizen Activity Badge #3

## SALUTING THE FLAG



If you are in uniform, give the Cub Scout salute when:

- The flag is being hoisted or lowered;
- The flag passes by or you pass the flag. In a parade, salute just before the flag passes and hold the salute until the flag has gone by.
- You recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

If you are NOT in uniform, greet the flag by placing your right hand over your heart. Take off your hat, if you are wearing one.



## Days to fly the flag

The flag should be displayed, from sunrise to sunset, on all days when the weather permits, especially on,

Inauguration Day

Martin Luther King's Birthday

Lincoln's Birthday

Washington's Birthday

Easter Sunday

Patriots Day, April 19

National Day of Prayer, the 1st Thursday of May

Mother's Day

Armed Forces Day

Memorial Day (**half-staff until noon**)

Flag Day

Independence Day, July 4th

Labor Day

Constitution Day

Columbus Day, October 12th

Navy Day

Veterans Day

Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Day

Election Days

and such other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States.

# Respecting the Flag

No disrespect should be shown to the flag of the United States of America; the flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colors, State flags, and organization or institutional flags are to be dipped as a mark of honor.

- a. The flag should never be displayed with the union down, except as a signal of dire distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
- b. The flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, the floor, water, or merchandise.
- c. The flag should never be carried flat or horizontally, but always aloft and free.
- d. The flag should never be used as wearing apparel, bedding, or drapery.
- e. The flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.
- f. The flag should never be used as a covering for a ceiling.



- g. The flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.
- h. The flag should never be used to receive, hold, carry, or deliver anything.
- i. The flag should never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever.

- j. A flag patch may be affixed to the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen, and members of patriotic organizations. The flag represents a living country and is itself considered a living thing. Therefore, the lapel flag pin being a replica, should be worn on the left lapel near the heart.
- k. The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.



# Quiz: Saluting & Respecting the Flag

When you are in uniform, salute the flag

- a) When the flag passes by you
- b) During the Pledge of Allegiance
- c) Both a and b

Which day would NOT be an occasion to fly the flag?

- a) Memorial Day
- b) Flag Day
- c) Your birthday

The Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts are allowed to wear the flag on their uniform because

- a) BSA is a patriotic organization
- b) We need more patches on our uniforms

# THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE



Citizen Activity Badge #3

# The Pledge of Allegiance - History

On September 8, 1892 a Boston-based youth magazine *"The Youth's Companion"* published a 22-word recitation for school children to use during planned activities the following month to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America. Under the title "The Pledge to the Flag", the composition was the earliest version of what we now know as the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

I pledge allegiance to my Flag,  
and to the Republic for which it stands:  
one Nation indivisible,  
With Liberty and Justice for all.

October 11, 1892

I pledge allegiance to the Flag  
of the United States **of America**,  
and to the Republic for which it  
stands:

one Nation indivisible,  
With Liberty and Justice for all.

June 14, 1924

I pledge allegiance to **the**  
Flag **of the United States**,  
and to the Republic for which it  
stands:

one Nation indivisible,  
With Liberty and Justice for all.

June 14, 1923

The last change in the Pledge of Allegiance occurred on June 14 (Flag Day), 1954 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved adding the words "under God". As he authorized this change he said:

*"In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war."*



**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.**

**June 14, 1954**

**ACTIVITY: Recite and Explain the Meaning**  
Salute the flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

In your own words, what do the words mean?

I pledge allegiance . . .

*I promise to be true . . .*

To the flag . . .

*To the symbol of our country. . .*

Of the United States of America . . .

*All 50 states of our country*

And to the Republic . . .

*A country where people elect  
citizens to make laws . . .*

For which it stands, . . .

*The flag means the country . . .*

One nation under God, . . .

*A single country whose people*

*believe in religious freedom . . .*

Indivisible, . . .

*The states cannot*

*be split up . . .*

With liberty and justice . . .

*With freedom and fairness . . .*

For all.

*For everyone in the country.*

Citizen Activity Badge #4, US Heritage Award #3

# When you Pledge Allegiance to the United States Flag, you:

- \* **Promise your loyalty to the Flag itself.**
- \* **Promise your loyalty to your own and the other 49 States.**
- \* **Promise your loyalty to the Government that unites us all,**

**Recognizing that we are ONE Nation under God,  
That we can not or should not be divided or alone,  
And understanding the right to Liberty and  
Justice belongs to ALL of us.**



# National Anthem

It was the valiant defense of Fort McHenry by American forces during the British attack on September 13, 1814 that inspired 35-year old, poet-lawyer Francis Scott Key to write the poem which was to become our national anthem, "**The Star-Spangled Banner.**" The poem was written to match the meter of the English song, "To Anacreon in Heaven." In 1931 the Congress of The United States of America enacted legislation that made "The Star-Spangled Banner" the official national anthem.



# Star Spangled Banner

**Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs 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?**

<http://www.bcpl.net/~etowner/anthem.html>

US Heritage Award #2

# Quiz: Our National Anthem

Who wrote our national anthem?

- a) Brittany Spears
- b) Elton John
- c) Francis Scott Key

What is the name of our national anthem?

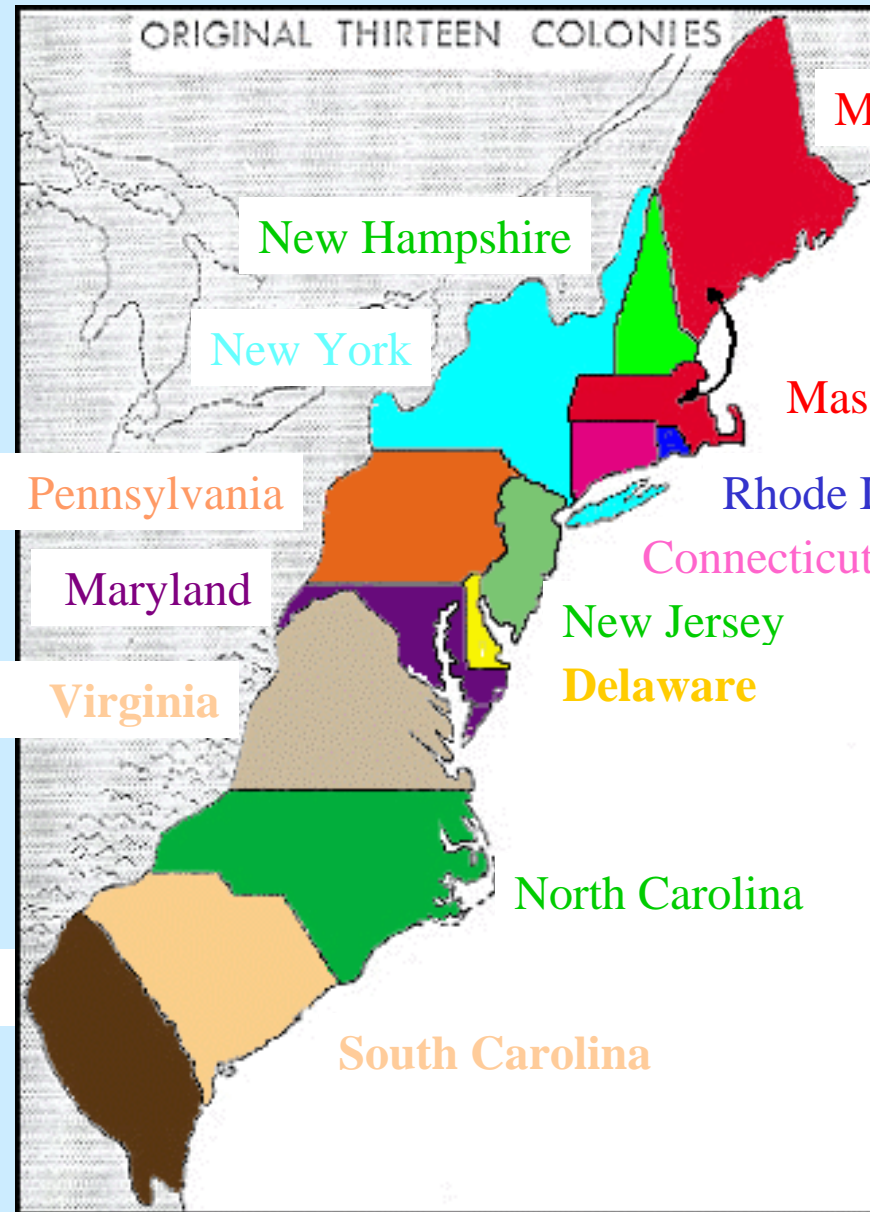
- a) Oh, Canada!
- b) The Star Spangled Banner
- c) America the Beautiful

What year was the national anthem written?

- a) 1931
- b) 1492
- c) 1814

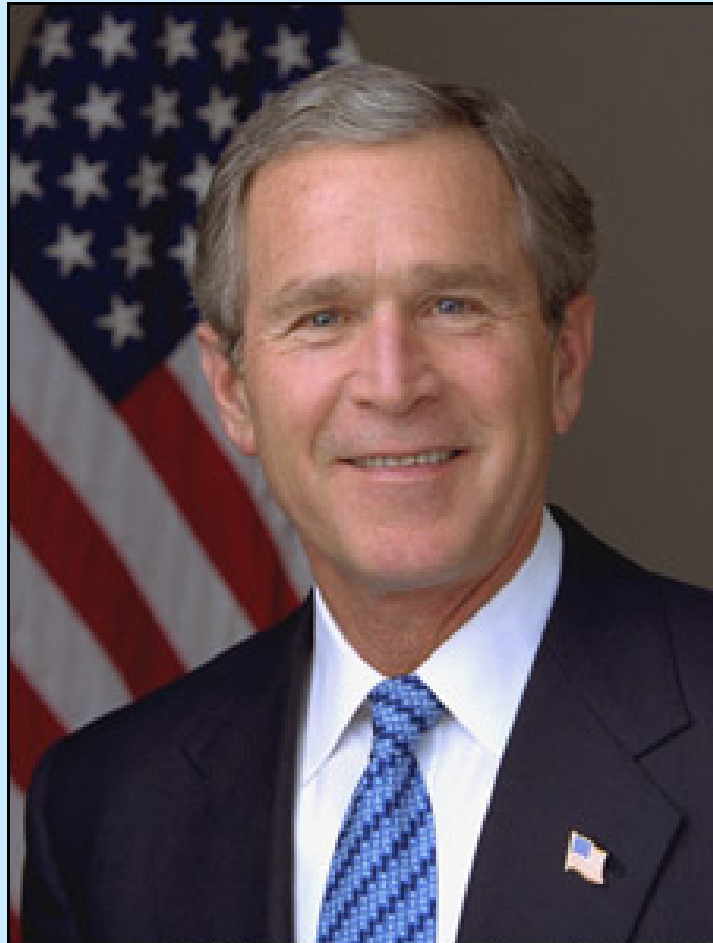


List the 13 original states of the United States of America.



US Heritage Award # 5

The President of the United States is . . .



White House photo by Eric Draper

US Heritage Award #6

Draw a picture of a famous person in American History and tell what they did. Share your report in den.

Examples:

- Betsy Ross
- Johnny Appleseed
- Abraham Lincoln
- George Washington
- Martin Luther King Jr.
- Condolessa Rice
- President Bush



# Service to Community

Participate in a community service project:

- Scouting for Food
- Litter clean up
- Planting trees
- Graffiti clean up