

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

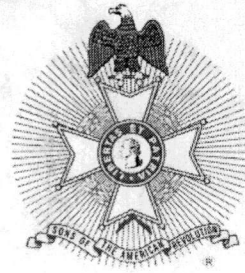
Answer, what do the colors red, white, and blue represent on the American flag?

Answer, what do the stars and stripes on the flag signify?

Answer, why are flags important to a country or nation?

Create their own flags representing their thoughts and values using example flags in the Flag Guide as a model.

Understand the importance of flags to American nationalism and citizenship.



INTRODUCTION

The first recorded illustration appeared in the Boston Newsletter on January 26, 1707 as a woodcut representing a proper flag.

What was this "standard of liberty?" The Massachusetts legislature formally adopted the pine tree flag on April 11, 1776 yet it was said to have already been in use for almost a year. Whatever the date the sentiment visually expressed in the flag was clearly understood.

There is no documentation of a flag being carried by the Minute Men at Lexington. Yet a British lieutenant in his diary mentions "we marched into the Town after taking possession of a Hill with a Liberty Pole on it and a flag flying..." No further description of this flag exists.

Flags, readily accessible and found easily in a classroom setting, are an effective method to lead your students on the historic path of our nation's history.

ACTIVITY:

Create you Own Flag!

Students will create their own flag using old magazines, crayons, colored pencils, and other crafting materials on a sheet of 8 1/2 x 11 paper that is hole-punched on the left-hand side. A pipe cleaner is then run through the two holes to create a staff. In order to visibly express their thoughts on their flag, they must know their history. Before they get started, present some or all of the example flags in the Flag Guide. Be sure to discuss the current American Flag. As you present the flags given to you with this packet, pose these questions to your students about what they see:

- ★ Why do you think that color was chosen?
- ★ What do those words mean?
- ★ Why does this flag lack text?
- ★ Why would they choose a snake, tree, or cross?
- ★ Why do some flags have stripes while others do not?
- ★ What do the words on the flag mean to you? Could these words or images mean something different in colonial times?

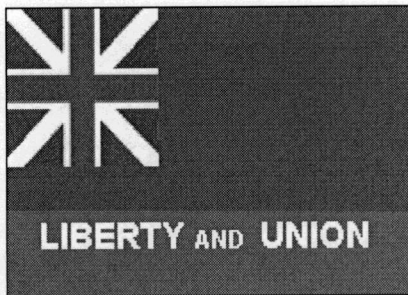
If you have time break into small groups so students can discuss what they put on their flag and why they

KENTUCKY STATE STANDARDS

- SS-5-GC-U-5
- SS-5-CS-U-1
- SS-5-CS-U-4
- SS-5-HP-U-1
- SS-5-HP-U-2
- SS-5-HP-U-3
- SS-5-HP-U-4

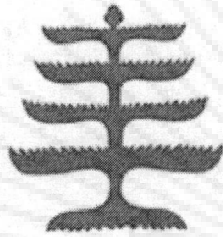
Lesson #1: Flag Guide

it's important. Make sure the students are choosing meaningful images and symbols.



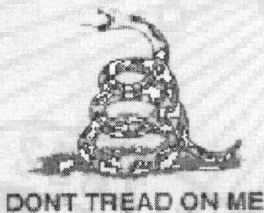
#1 The Taunton Flag-
1774

This flag is a symbol of the protest by the Colonists. The original flag, the union pattern with bold red ground, had been the British naval flag. The Taunton Flag was offensive to the British because the colonists had “defaced” the original and added the words, “Liberty And Union” At Taunton, MA in October of 1774 as in other cities and towns the Colonists raised a new type of union flag on top of a Liberty pole. This flag displayed a red field with the British Union Jack as a square shaped canton with the words, “Liberty And Union.” The flag was cut down by the authorities on the grounds that it was a public nuisance. Would that be considered against our freedom of speech and assembly today?



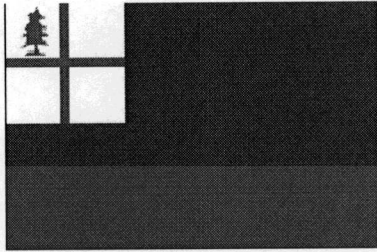
#2 The Pine Tree Flag-
1686-1778

During the reign of King James II (1658-88) some New Englanders wanted to have a flag that had a distinctive association with their region. They chose a pine tree. This symbol choice could be related to the minting of the flat, square pine tree shilling by Massachusetts between 1652 and 1680. While the mine closed in 1680, the colonists continued to make these shillings using the older and legal date. This action was due to the severe shortage of circulating currency in the colonies. **RELIGIOUS ASPECT-** This use of the tree may also have appealed to those Colonists that were tired of the discussion of the appropriateness of using the cross on the flag.



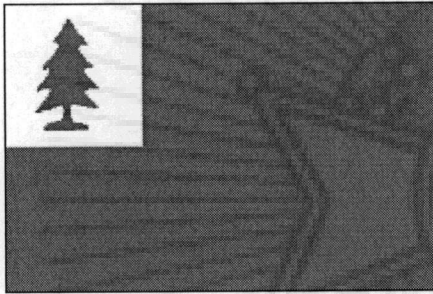
#3 The Gadsden Flag -
1775

In 1775, Colonel Christopher Gadsden presented this flag at the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. It became the first flag used by the sea-going soldiers who eventually would become the United States Marines. Rattlesnakes occur only in the Western Hemisphere. As such, the Colonists used the timber rattlesnake as an emblem in various formats, on currency, uniforms, and even buttons, when depicting the colonies in revolutionary times. The rattlesnake has thirteen layers, signifying the thirteen colonies. The rattlesnake is known only to attack when provoked, which explains the “Don’t Tread on Me” phrase. A London magazine of the time also described the symbolism of the rattlesnake, saying, “it has no eyelids so it is ever vigilant, it does not strike without first giving warning and only then in defense of its home.” **QUESTION:** Why would this imagery fit the colonists?



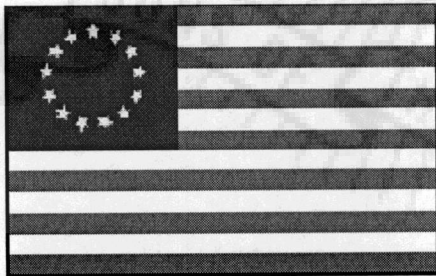
#4 The Bunker Hill Flag

This flag was flown at Bunker Hill. Or was it? No hard evidence exists that a flag was flown over the battle field, yet flags of this design were used during the Revolutionary War. The pine tree was the symbol of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The blue field symbolized the blue flown on ships to denote their status as merchant vessels. The Massachusetts Bay colony chose this as an indicator of how Northern colonists made their living. It is important to note that the white and red cross in the left hand corner is the cross of St. George, the patron saint of England. This meant that they considered themselves still Englishmen, despite the colonies' protest against Parliament and the King. The many companies and regiments which comprised the Continental Army generally carried only the colors of the States to which the troops belonged.



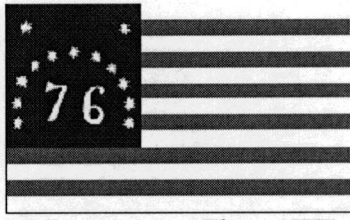
#5 The Continental Flag-
1775

We have no documentation as to which American flag was flown at the Battle of Bunker Hill. This is one of the flags believed to have flown in the famous fight. Artist John Trumbull talked to several eye-witnesses that spoke of seeing the Continental Flag pictured there. John Trumbull's paintings of the Revolutionary War, and the subsequent painting from these interviews can be seen in his painting "Battle of Bunker Hill". The Continental Flag was the third flag of New England.



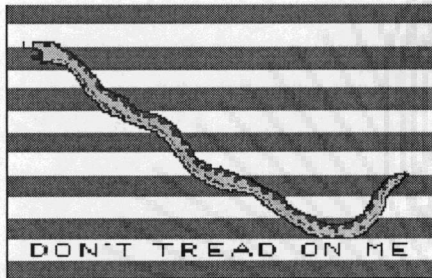
#6 Betsy Ross Flag- 1777

This flag was adopted famously as the official flag on June 14, 1777 by the Continental Congress through the first Flag Act. Betsy Ross is credited with making this flag for George Washington, and it is noted in the Pennsylvania Archives that she was paid for her work in May 1777.



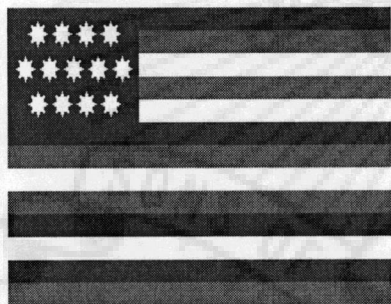
#7 Bennington Flag- 1777

According to tradition, Molly Stark, wife of Colonel John Stark, is credited with creating this flag before the Battle of Bennington. As the story goes, Colonel Stark and the American militia defeated a British raiding force at Bennington, Vermont on August 16, 1777, protecting military supplies. The battle was won when Ethan Allen and Seth Warner, leading the Green Mountain Boys, arrived to replenish the troops from Fort Ticonderoga. However, some scholars now question this story, stating that the dating of this flag is actually closer to that of the War of 1812.



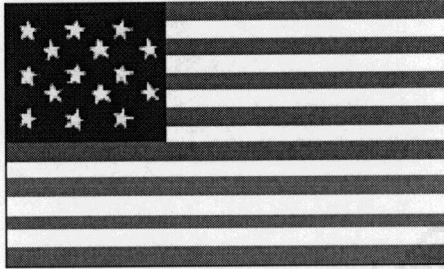
#8 First Navy Jack or
"Continental Navy Jack"-
1776

This flag was said to have flown over the Continental Fleet's ship *Alfred* in January, 1776. This or similar flags were used by American ships throughout the American Revolution. Different from the Gadsden Flag of SC because it did not have stripes, the background was also yellow with a coiled rattlesnake. The symbolism behind this rattlesnake is similar to that employed by the Gadsden. Although there is widespread belief that ships of the Continental Navy flew this jack, there is no firm base of historical evidence to support it. In short, there is strong reason to believe that the actual Continental Navy Jack was a simple red and white striped flag with no adornment.



#9 Serapis Flag-1779

This flag is named after the British ship that John Paul Jones overtook and flew the flag on during the Battle of Flamborough. It was during this battle that he made his famous statement, "Sir, I have not yet begun to fight." The flag has 13 white 8-point stars in a blue field and red, white and blue stripes. The flag design is attributed to Benjamin Franklin. As an American ambassador, Franklin knew that John Paul Jones needed an officially recognized flag to fly on his ships so that he would not be mistaken as a pirate.

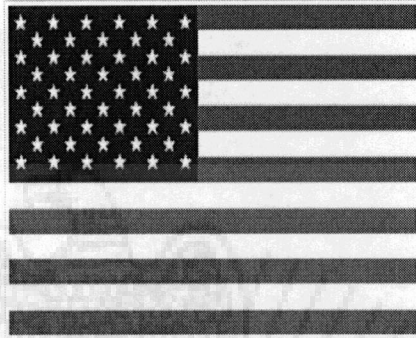


This is the flag that flew over Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. It inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star Spangled Banner in September 1814. Key watched over the harbor and saw the flag was still flying as the British attacked Fort McHenry. It resembles our current American flag, but with only 15 stars, representing the 15 recognized states in 1814.

#10 Ft. McHenry Flag
"Star-Spangled Banner"-
1812



United States 50 Star Flag- 1960



After Alaska and then Hawaii joined the Union, a new design and arrangement of stars were required in the union of the flag. In the order issued by President Eisenhower, August 21, 1959, the national banner with fifty stars became the official flag of the United States. President Eisenhower issued an attachment to the order specifying the position of the stars in the union, and setting forth the dimensions and proportions of the constituent parts of the flag. It is flown 24 hours a day by order of the President at the Washington Monument, the White House, on the Green in the town of Lexington, the South Pole, and the Moon.

What do the Colors of the American Flag Mean?

- ★ RED- Hardiness and Valor
- ★ BLUE- Color of the Chief, Vigilance, Perseverance, and Justice
- ★ WHITE- Purity and Innocence

The 13 stripes mark the 13 colonies!

50 Stars for each state recognized by the American government.

Vocabulary Words:

Allegiance	Parts of the Flag
Region	*from The American Flag Pamphlet*
Represent	Truck
Identify	Canton or Union
Signify	Fly End
Motto	Hoist
Record	Field or Ground
Symbol	Fly
Regimental	Halyard
	Flagpole, Flagstaff, or Mast

After the completion of the Flag Lesson, pass out the prepared flag templates and begin activity!



“O! say can you see, by the dawn’s early light – whose broad stripes and bright stars – gave proof through the night – o’er the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

Francis Scott Key, a 35-year-old lawyer and amateur poet wrote a poem after seeing the 1812 bombardment of Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland by British ships. These words are phrases from “The Star-Spangled Banner that were incorporated into our country’s National Anthem by a congressional resolution and signed by President Herbert Hoover on March 3, 1931.

I bring this example to your attention because today the Sons of the American Revolution aims to show how once again history can be documented and experienced through visual means.

The first recorded illustration appeared in a Boston News – Letter on Jan. 26, 1707 as a woodcut representing a proper flag.

What was this “standard of liberty?” The Massachusetts legislature formally adopted the pine tree flag on April 11, 1776 yet it was said to have already been in use up to a year before April. Whatever the date the sentiment visually expressed in the flag was clearly understood.

There is no documentation of a flag being carried by the Minute Men at Lexington. Yet a British lieutenant in his diary mentions “we marched into the Town after taking possession of a Hill with a Liberty Pole on it and a flag flying...” No further description of this flag exists.

- ? Why was that color chosen?
- ? What do those words mean?
- ? Why does this flag not have any words?
- ? Why chose a snake, tree, cross?
- ? Why do some flags have stripes and some do not?
- ? What do the words on the flag mean to you? Could they mean something different in colonial times?

? WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WERE DESIGNING A FLAG DURING THIS TIME IN OUR HISTORY?

In order to visibly express their thoughts, they must know their history.

START TO SHOW FLAGS

BUNKER HILL FLAG #1

This flag was flown at Bunker Hill. Or was it? No hard evidence exists that a flag was flown over that battle field, yet flags of these designs were used during the Revolutionary War. The pine tree was the symbol of Massachusetts-Bay Colony. The many companies and regiments which comprised the Continental Army generally carried only the colors of the States to which the troops belonged.

The “History of the Flag of the United States” by George Preble, cites a Mrs. Manning, whose father was in the battle. She states that a pine tree flag was flown. Others contend that immediately after the battle Connecticut troops came out with standards bearing the arms of the colony and the motto, “He, who transported us hither, will support us.”

GREAT OR GRAND UNION “CONTINENTAL COLORS” FLAG #2

This flag was raised over the Continental Army at Cambridge, MA, January 1776. This flag was often used after the Stars and Stripes were authorized by the Continental Congress. Considered the first unofficial flag of the United States, it was used from late 1775 to mid 1777. The red cross of St. George signifies England, and the white cross of St. Andres signifies Scotland. The 13 stripes represent the original colonies.

George Washington's Continental Army was made up of a variety of militia units, each carrying their own flags. These regimental colors may have influenced the design of the stars and stripes.

BETSY ROSS OR "FIRST STARS AND STRIPES" FLAG #3

This flag was adopted as the official flag on June 14, 1777 by the Continental Congress through the first Flag Act. Betsy Ross is credited with making this flag for George Washington, and it is noted in the Pennsylvania Archives that she was paid for her work in May 1777.

FIRST NAVY JACK OR "CONTINENTAL NAVY JACK" FLAG #4

This flag was said to have flown over the Continental Fleet's ship *Alfred* in January, 1776. This or similar flags were used by American ships throughout the Revolution. The rattle of the rattlesnake has thirteen layers, signifying the thirteen colonies. The rattlesnake is known only to attack when provoked, which explains the "Don't Tread on Me" phrase.

Different from the Gadsden flag of SC because it did not have stripes. The background was yellow with the coiled rattlesnake that first appeared on the drums of the first enlisted Marines from Philadelphia. The artist places the rattlesnake in the attitude of going to strike with thirteen rattles to its tail.

Rattlesnakes occur only in the Western Hemisphere. As such the Colonists used the timber rattlesnake as an emblem in various formats when depicting the colonies in revolutionary times. On currency, uniforms, buttons, and flags.

FORT MOULTRIE FLAG #5

This flag was designed in 1775 and was the flag of the minutemen of South Carolina. It was flown over Sullivan's Island, SC, during an invasion by the British. Sergeant William Jasper held the flag up when it fell during the battle until a new flagstaff was made, saying "We cannot fight without a flag." The Colonists succeeded in the first sea victory in years, preventing a southern invasion by the British.

THE TAUNTON FLAG #6

This flag is a symbol of protest by the Colonists. At Taunton, MA in Oct. 1774 as in other cities and towns the Colonists raised a new type of union flag on top of a Liberty pole. Red field with the British Union Jack as a square shaped canton and the words, "Liberty And Union." The flag was cut down by the authorities on the grounds that it was a public nuisance. Would that be considered today - against our freedom of speech and assembly?

THE PINE TREE FLAG #7

During the reign of King James II (1685-88) some New Englanders wanted to have a flag that had a distinctive association with their region. They chose a pine tree. This symbol choice could be related to the mining of the flat, square pine tree shilling by Massachusetts between 1652 and 1680. While the mine closed in 1680, the colonists continued to make these shillings using the older and legal date. This action was due to the severe shortage of circulating currency in the colonies.

ALSO RELIGION ASPECT – This use of the tree may also have appealed to those Colonists that were tired of the discussion of the appropriateness of using the cross on the flag.

UNITED STATES 50 – STAR FLAG 1960 - #8

After Alaska and then Hawaii joined the Union, a new design and arrangement of stars were required in the union of the flag. In the order issued by President Eisenhower, August 21, 1959, the national banner with fifty stars became the official flag of the United States. President Eisenhower issued an attachment to the order specifying the position of the stars in the union, and setting forth the dimensions and proportions of the constituent parts of the flag.

Red – hardiness & valor

Blue – color of Chief, vigilance, perseverance, justice

White – purity, innocence

13 stripes to mark the 13 colonies

Stars – one for each state recognized by the country

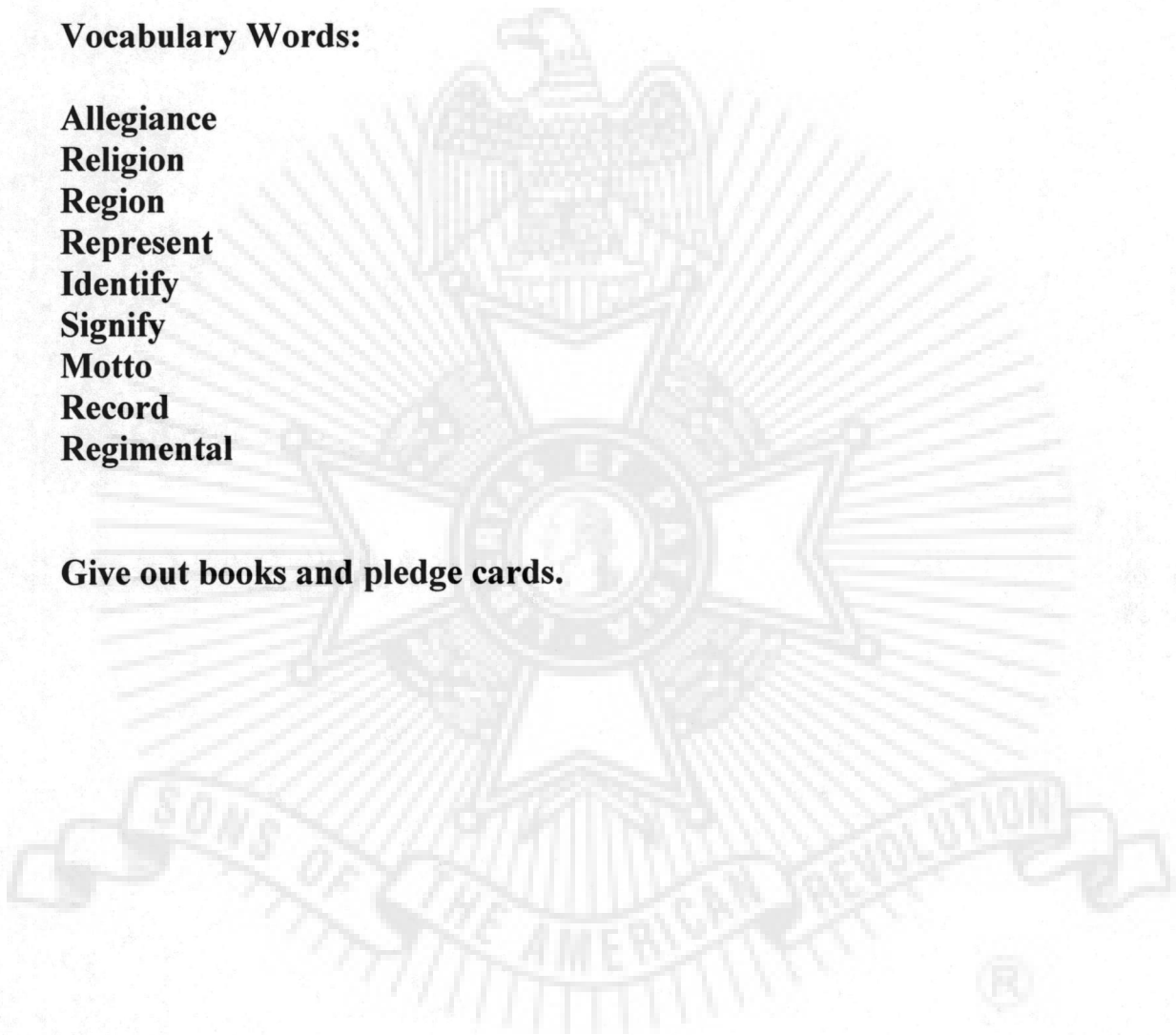
Flown 24 hours a day by order of the President: Washington Monument, The White House, On the Green in the town of Lexington, the South Pole, the Moon.

Whether its designer was trying to record or represent their personal history, belief, or home, symbols identify more than a country but the people themselves who give that country life.

Vocabulary Words:

**Allegiance
Religion
Region
Represent
Identify
Signify
Motto
Record
Regimental**

Give out books and pledge cards.



Center for Advancing America's Heritage

Flag station

Set up with indoor stands the following flags:

Current American, Grand Union, Betsy Ross, Star Spangled Banner,

Tell about flags—start with the Grand Union and end with the current flag

While talking about the American Flag, explain that it is always higher,

It should never touch the ground; while saying the pledge to the flag or

the playing of the National anthem, you should salute by placing your

hand over your heart; hats should be removed unless you are in uniform.

Ask for a volunteer to lead group in saying the pledge to the flag. Ask the group to stand and call the group to attention, and say the word "Salute."

Group recites the Pledge of Allegiance"

Tell the group to be seated.

Explain that the flag, when removed from a Government flag pole is folded 13 times in a triangular fold. This represents the first 13 colonies.

When a soldier is killed or a veteran of military service dies the Government issues a burial flag. The flag is draped over the soldier's or Veteran's coffin. During the funeral service the flag is folded and presented to the surviving wife, husband or parent.

Do flag folding demonstration.

Then ask the students for two volunteers to try flag folding. Remind them not to let the flag touch the ground. If you have more time, continue to let students fold the flag.