

I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag

Summary: The American flag is a symbol of our country. The design of the flag has changed over the years, but it has always had stars and stripes. Americans respect and honor the flag.

Genre: Informational
Comprehension Focus: Connecting Images with Written Text
Text Structure: Description
Themes: flags, symbols, patriotism
Guided Reading Level: L
Lexile® Level: 450L
Word Count: 279



Into the Text

Introduction

- Show students the book's cover. Read the title aloud. Ask them to explain whether they think the book is a piece of literature or an informational text.
- Have students describe what they see on the cover, including in the background.

Word Study

Students will review and practice using pronouns.

Write the following sentence on the board: *The American flag has many names.* Have students read the sentence aloud with you. Then, write the following sentence on the board: *It has many names.* Ask students to identify the difference between the first sentence and the second sentence. Explain that *it* is a pronoun, and it took the place of the noun *flag*. Tell students that the pronoun *it* was used because the flag is an object. Repeat the process with *I*, *my*, *her*, *she*, *them*, and *they*.

Vocabulary

Prior to the lesson, write the vocabulary words from the book's glossary on individual index cards. On separate sentence strips, write the words' definitions, but do not include the vocabulary words. Display the index cards and the sentence strips on the board in random order, making sure the vocabulary words are not placed with their definitions. Ask students if they recognize any of the vocabulary words. Invite student volunteers to match each vocabulary word with its correct definition. Review the definitions of each word with the class, and have students practice using the words in sentences.

Through the Text

Comprehension (Connecting Images With Written Text)

Students will examine the images and visual content of the text as they read.

Discuss how the *visual images* in texts convey information and aid comprehension. Instruct students to focus on the connections between the written text and the visual images as they read. Preview the visual elements on pages 4–9 of the text. Use a think-aloud strategy to talk about what you see. (*This flag looks different from our classroom flag because it only has 13 stars.*) Next, guide students as they read the written text on pages 4–9 aloud. Ask students to think about the connections between the visual presentation and the written text as they read. (*On page 8, the written text explains that the stars and stripes on the first flag stood for the original 13 colonies, and the map shows the specific names of these colonies.*) Have students read the rest of the text aloud, either with partners or independently. Remind students to review the similarities and differences between the written and visual text on each page.

Language Support

Write a few sentences from the text on the board. Have students read them aloud. Model how to ask a question about one of the sentences, starting with *I wonder why...* (*I wonder why the colonies became states.*) Encourage students to create their own questions about the text using *I wonder why* statements. Have students share their questions, and allow other students to respond.

Text-Dependent Questions

Have students reread specific portions of the text as noted below and respond to the following questions. To maximize their learning, have student pairs share their responses with each other before discussing them as a group.

1. What is the significance of the heading on page 10? (*The flag has changed over the years as our country has changed.*)
2. Reread pages 14 and 15. What is one example of information included in the Flag Code? (*how to fold the flag in a special way*)
3. Look at the picture on page 15. How do the children in the picture feel about the flag? How do you know? (*They respect the flag because they are saying the Pledge of Allegiance with their hands over their hearts.*)
4. Reread pages 16 and 17. What date is the birthday of the flag? (*June 14*)

Beyond the Text

Writing About Reading

Assign each student a two-page spread from the text. Have students draw a picture showing what they learned from these pages. Then, have them write a sentence underneath their picture explaining what they learned.

Extension Activity

Have students read the text for the Pledge of Allegiance on page 21. Discuss the meaning of each line. Have students practice saying the Pledge of Allegiance as a class.

I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag

A photograph of four children in a classroom setting. In the foreground, a young Black boy in a plaid shirt is smiling and placing his hand over his heart. Behind him, a young girl with long dark hair in a purple shirt is also placing her hand over her heart. To the right, a young girl with brown hair in a green shirt is looking towards the camera with her hand over her heart. In the background, another boy is partially visible. A large American flag is partially visible on the left side of the image. The entire scene is framed by a green border.

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I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag



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American Symbol

Some people call it Old Glory.
Others call it the Stars and Stripes. The
American flag has many names. It is a
symbol (SIM-buhl) of our country.



American flag

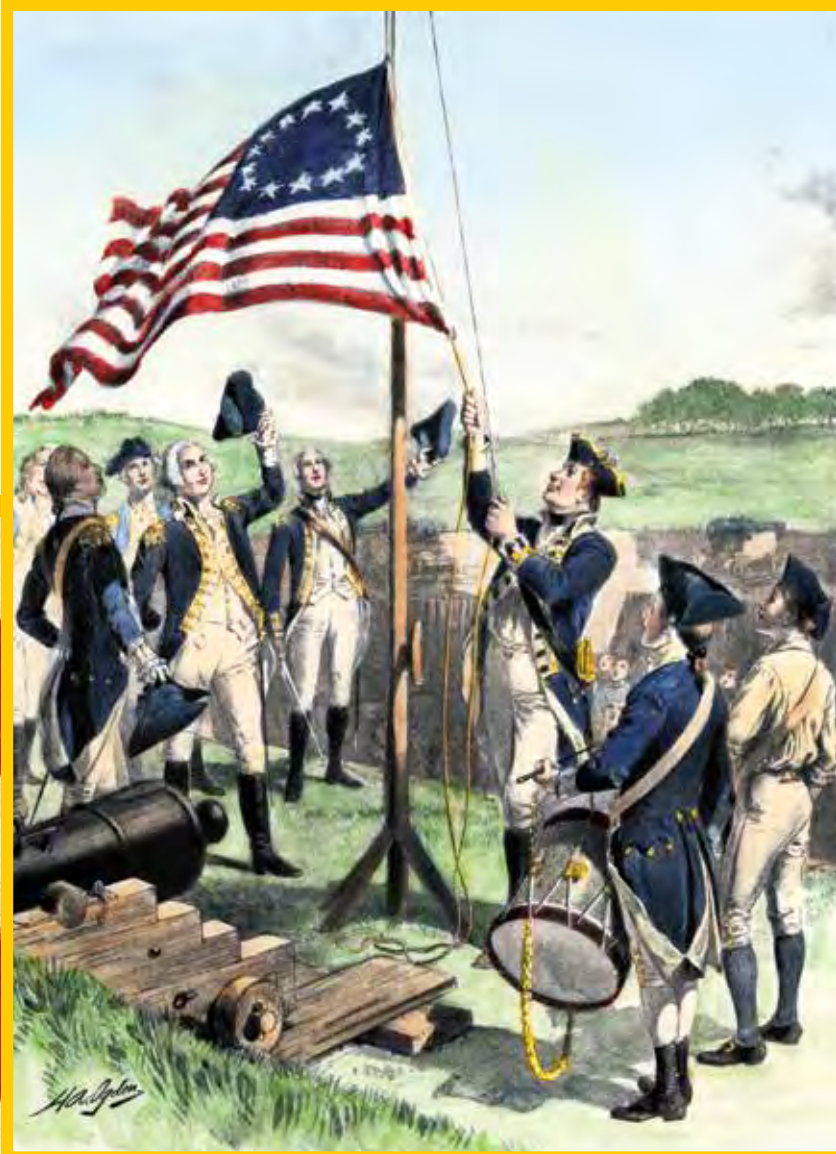


The First Flag

America's first flag had 13 red and white stripes. It also had 13 white stars.



The American flag is raised long ago.



The stars and stripes on the flag stood for the 13 **colonies** (KOL-uh-nee-z). Colonies were places in early America.



the 13 colonies

Freedom!

The colonies won their **freedom** in a war with Great Britain.



The colonies fight with Great Britain during the war.

The Changing Flag

Later, the colonies became states. The flag changed, too.

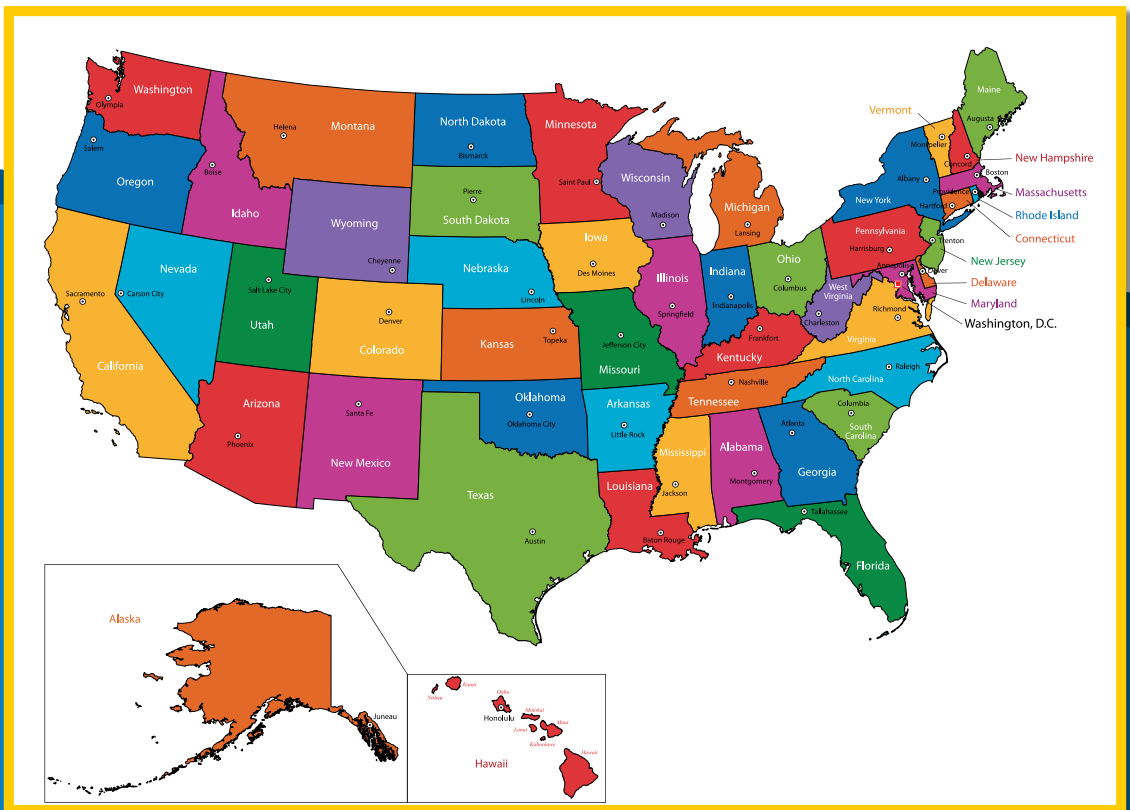


This flag has 15 stars.



This flag has 34 stars.

The stars now stand for states. A star is added each time a new state is added.



There are 50 states in America.



Today, the flag has 50 stars.

Follow the Code

The Flag Code is a set of **rules**. It tells people how to **respect** (ri-SPEKT) the flag.



This woman and man fold the flag in a special way.

I Pledge

Today, we **honor** the flag by saying the Pledge of Allegiance (uh-LEE-juhns).



These students are saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Flag Day

Americans honor the flag on Flag Day each year. It is the birthday of the flag.



Save the Date

Flag Day is on June 14.



Flag Day honors this symbol of our country. The flag is a symbol of **pride**. Pride means that we love our country.



Flag Day poster

On the Moon!

Did you know there is an
American flag on the moon?



An astronaut shows respect for the flag on the moon.

Say It!

Learn the Pledge of Allegiance on the next page. Say it with your friends. Say it to your family.



Students said the Pledge of Allegiance long ago.



Students say the Pledge of Allegiance today.

The Pledge of Allegiance

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.

Glossary

colonies—places ruled by another country far away

freedom—the power to do what you want to do

honor—to show respect for a person or thing

pride—a feeling that you respect yourself and should be respected by other people

respect—the way you show that someone or something is important

rules—things that tell what you may or may not do

symbol—an object that stands for something else

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Your Turn!



A New Flag

Look at the flag above. How would you change it if you were asked to make a new flag? Draw a picture of a new flag to honor America. Write about your flag. Tell a friend about it.



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**Thank you for helping us
create a world in which
children love to learn!**

