

**United States Symbols—the American Flag
First Grade**

**Developed for
Library of Congress Midwest Region
“It’s Elementary: Teaching with Primary Sources” 2011**

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Overview: The purpose of this lesson is to familiarize the students with common symbols of the United States, specifically the American flag. They will study primary sources to learn how the flag has changed over time. Students will also learn flag etiquette and various places that flags are commonly flown. As an end product the students will create an American flag with their own written description to accompany it.

Kansas Standards for History, Government and Social Studies (2013)

- Standard 3: Societies are shaped by beliefs, ideas, and diversity.
 - Benchmark 1: Students will recognize and evaluate.
- Standard 4: Societies experience continuity and change over time.
 - Benchmark 2: Students will analyze context and draw conclusion.

**Kansas College and Career Standards for English Language Arts
Writing**

- **W 1.2:** Students will write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.

Speaking and Listening Standards

- **SL 1.2:** Students will ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

Objectives

Content:

- The student identifies the current American flag.
- The student can describe the meaning of the symbols on the American flag.
- The student can explain why the flag has changed in appearance over time.

Skills:

- The student uses photographs to compare and contrast.
- The student will write descriptive sentences.

Essential Questions:

- Why do countries and states have flags?
- What do you think the stars and stripes on the flag could stand for?

Resource Table

Image	Description	Citation	URL
	<p>Photo 1 Image of school children saluting the American flag as it is being raised up a pole</p>	<p><i>Chicago Daily News</i> negatives collection, DN-0003451. Courtesy of Chicago History Museum. Created/published -- 1917</p>	<p>http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?amem/cdn:@field(NU_MBER+@band(ic_hicdn+n067757))</p>
	<p>Photo 2 Elevated view of people marching and carrying a large American flag by the corners and sides in foul territory on the third baseline and behind home plate at Wrigley Field</p>	<p><i>Chicago Daily News</i> negatives collection, DN-0003451. Courtesy of Chicago History Museum Created/published --1927</p>	<p>http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?amem/cdn:@field(NU_MBER+@band(ic_hicdn+s066558))</p>
	<p>Photo 3 View of a parade in Hill City, Kansas, led by John Legere, on horseback and carrying a large American flag. Also visible are members of a marching band, spectators, horse-drawn carriages, and businesses along the town street.</p>	<p>Kansas Historical Society. <i>Kansas Memory</i>. Date: Between 1890 and 1900</p>	<p>http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/100374</p>

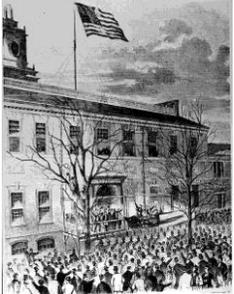
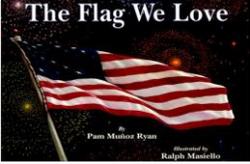
Image	Description	Citation	URL
	<p>Photo 4 This photograph from a glass plate negative shows a group of children dressed in colonial costumes gathered around a 1776 American flag.</p>	<p>Kansas Historical Society. Kansas Memory. Creator: Lawrence Studio</p> <p>Date: Between 1900s and 1930s</p>	<p>http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/224238</p>
	<p>Photo 5 President Abraham Lincoln hoisting the American flag with thirty-four stars upon Independence Hall, Philadelphia, February 22, 1861.</p>	<p>Kansas Historical Society. Kansas Memory. Creator: Richards, F. De B. (Frederick De Bourg). Copied from <i>Harper's Weekly</i>, March 9, 1861.</p>	<p>http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/253</p>
	<p>1776 Betsy Ross reports that she sewed the first US flag.</p>	<p>Independence Hall Association Copyright ©1996-2011</p>	<p>http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagfact.html</p>
	<p>1818 Flag with 13 stripes and 20 stars</p>	<p>Independence Hall Association Copyright ©1996-2011</p>	<p>http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagfact.html</p>
	<p>1861 Flag with 34 stars after adding Kansas as a state</p>	<p>Independence Hall Association Copyright ©1996-2011</p>	<p>http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagfact.html</p>
	<p>Current flag 50 stars representing 50 states</p>	<p>Independence Hall Association Copyright ©1996-2011</p>	<p>http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagfact.html</p>

Image	Description	Citation	URL
	<p><i>The Flag We Love</i> Illustrated children's book</p>	<p>Ryan, Pam Munoz Charlesbridge Publishing, Watertown, MA., 1996</p>	
	<p>Flag Etiquette</p>	<p>Site maintained by Duane Streufert</p>	<p>http://www.usflag.org/flagetiquette.html</p>

Lesson plan: This lesson has been developed for use with an Interactive or SMART Board. Modifications have been provided in the Teacher Notes for those without a SMART Board.

Day 1:

1. Teacher will play patriotic songs (examples: *The Star Spangled Banner*, *America*, *God Bless the USA*, etc.)
 - Ask students if and when they have heard these songs.
 - Discuss why these songs are played at different events such as ball games, 4th of July, etc. If needed, find clips of these songs being played at such events if there is no background knowledge.
2. Read the book ***The Flag We Love***. Look at the flag in the classroom and “share the pen” to write down different features you notice. Sharing the pen is described in the Teacher notes.
 - Discuss other places you commonly see a flag being flown.
3. Look at **Photos 1, 2 and 3** from the resource table and click on the hyperlink to show the photo on your SMART board. Have the students use the “curtain” feature or the “spotlight” feature to take a close look at the pictures to predict where the flag is being flown in these pictures.
 - Ask, “Have people been flying or displaying the flag for a long time?” “How do you know?”
 - Discuss clues to the time period as well as place.
 - Discuss the pride with which the flag has flown.

Day 2:

1. Examine **Photos 4 and 5** on the SMART board. Discuss the importance of **Photo 5** to Kansas.
2. Then, look at images of the American flag throughout history.
 - Discuss how the flag has changed and discuss possible theories as to why those changes have occurred.

3. Create a timeline using pictures from **Our Flag throughout History** template. Students will cut the flag and date from the template and paste the flags in chronological order on construction paper.
 - If you want to see a complete timeline of American flags, refer to the hyperlink provided on the resource table.

Day 3:

1. Discuss places you see the American flag and guidelines for flying the American flag.
 - There is a hyperlink on the resource table that will link to a website detailing proper **flag etiquette**.
2. Students will create an American flag with construction paper.
3. Students will use the **American Flag** web graphic organizer to generate ideas for sentences to write about the American flag.

Day 4:

4. Students will write descriptive sentences about the American flag introducing paragraph form.

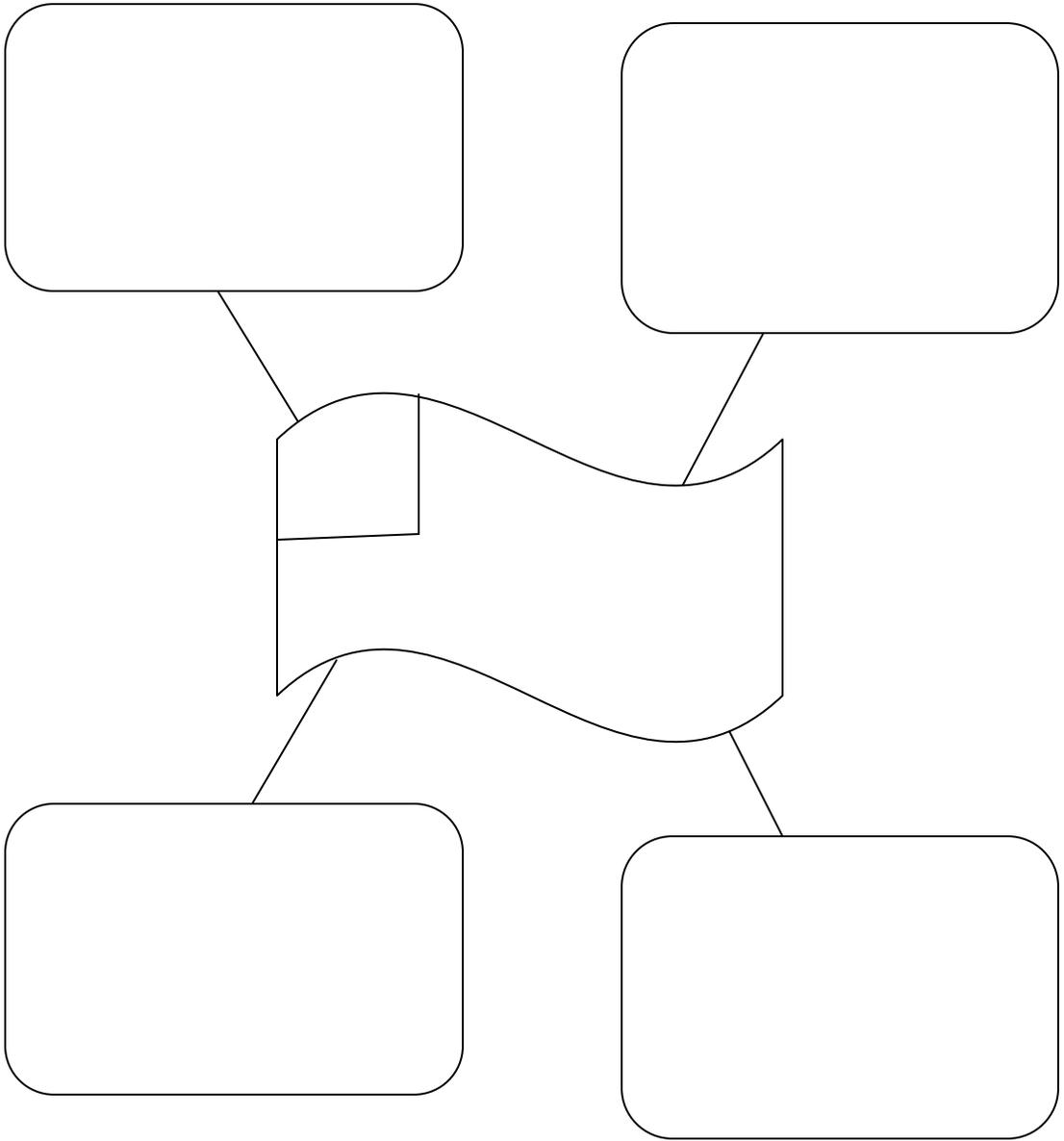
Assessment:

- When given pictures of flags, students will identify the current American flag.

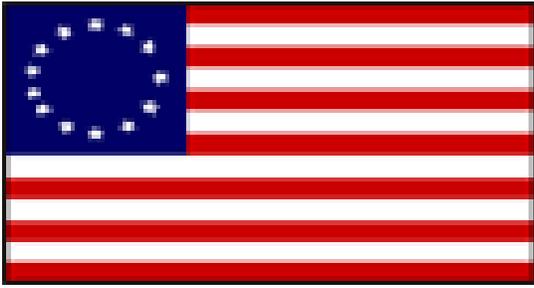
For the Teacher

- If you do not have access to a SMART Board you may print a hardcopy of each image and provide a magnifying glass for each student or a “spotlight” made from a piece of tag board with a window cut out of the middle.
- “Sharing the Pen” is a technique that uses chart paper and as a class you create a writing piece. Students and teachers may both write on the chart paper, therefore, “sharing the pen.”

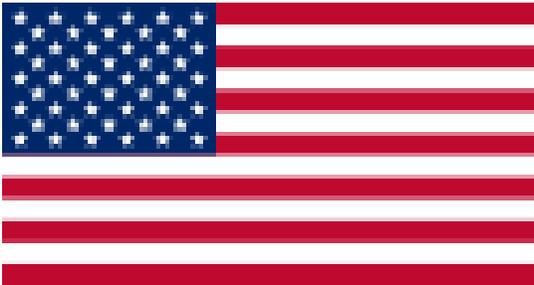
American Flag



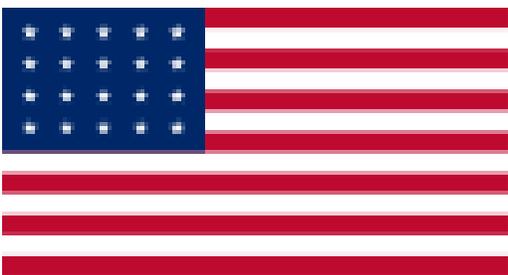
Our Flag throughout History



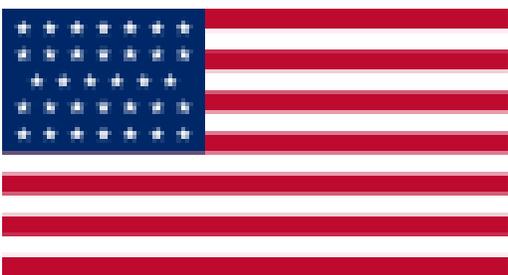
1776



2011



1818



1861