

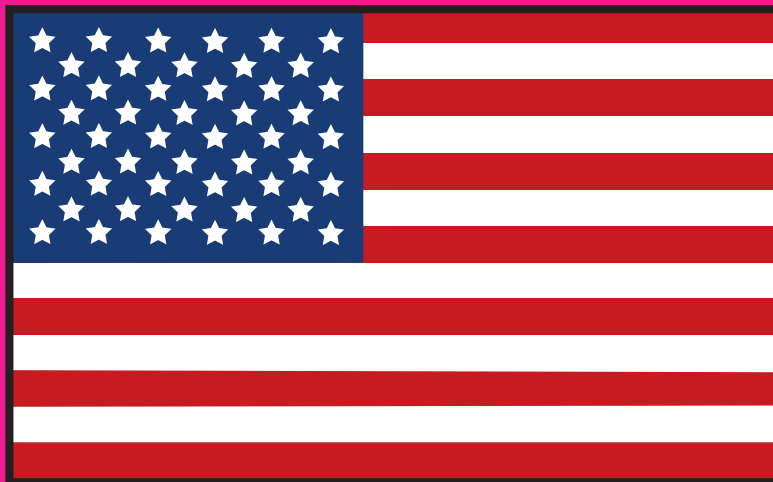
grades
1-3

The American Flag

National Symbols Lesson



literacy
based!
core
standards!



By Amy Headley and Victoria Smith



Welcome!

On behalf of Splash! Publications, we would like to welcome you to *The American Flag*, one of 13 lessons in our *National Symbols Unit*. This lesson was designed by teachers with you and your students in mind.

The Format

We've created a color and black line version of this lesson. Use the color version for your Smart Board and the black line masters to make copies for your students. Our goal is a lesson that you can use immediately. No comprehension questions to write or activities to create.

Core Standards: The "Big Ideas"

Core Standards help teachers prioritize instruction and connect the "big ideas" students need to know in order to advance. *The American Flag* is a reading-based lesson that fosters literacy in History and Social Studies for students in grades 1-3.

At the same time that students are learning important factual content about *The American Flag*, they are meeting the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts by reading grade level appropriate informational text, strengthening vocabulary, comprehension, and decoding skills. These activities help students build knowledge and make connections to the "big ideas" in history.

The Lesson Plan

Before reading *The American Flag*, activate prior knowledge by asking students to name the three colors used in the flag. Explain that today they will be learning about the history of the American Flag.

After reading *The American Flag*, students will:

- answer *The American Flag* Reading Comprehension Questions.
- follow written directions to correctly color the American Flag.

Note: Answers and grading rubrics for the activities are at the end of the lesson.

Our Other National Symbols Lessons

The Bald Eagle, The Great Seal, The Capitol Building, The Liberty Bell, The Statue of Liberty, The Washington Monument, The Jefferson Memorial, The Lincoln Memorial, The Golden Gate Bridge, Mount Rushmore, The Gateway Arch, The Empire State Building.



The American Flag

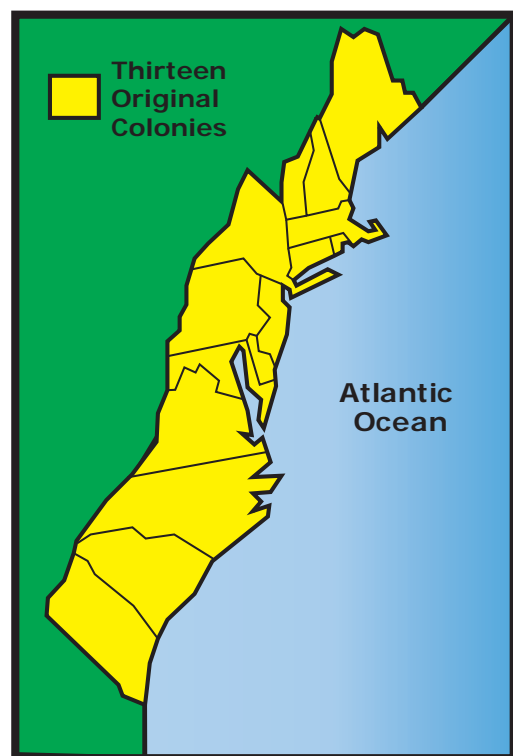
The American Flag is a very important **symbol** in our country. A symbol is an object that represents or stands for something else. Bravery, freedom, and honor are just three of the many things that the American Flag represents. Do you know the history of the American Flag?

The Thirteen Original Colonies

Hundreds of years ago, **colonists** from England sailed to America. Colonists are people who must follow someone else's rules. The colonists settled in 13 colonies along the Atlantic Ocean.

The colonists cut down trees and used the land for farming. They built churches, schools, and stores. The colonists did what the leaders in England told them to do.

The colonists wanted to make their own decisions. They were willing to fight for this freedom.



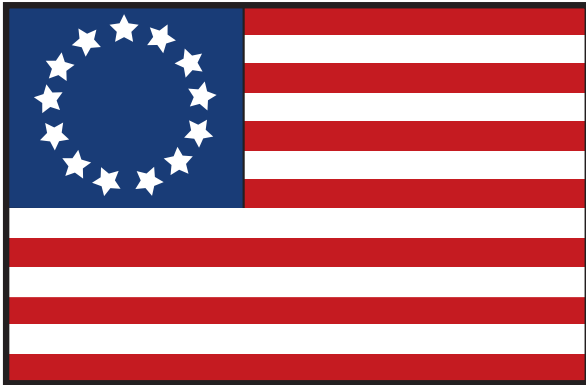
The Revolutionary War

In 1775, the first shots of the Revolutionary War were fired. England sent soldiers and supplies to fight against the colonists in America.

After a year of fighting, the colonists made a bold move. They declared their **independence** from England. Independence means freedom from someone else's control. The colonists named themselves the United States of America.

The American Flag

On June 14, 1777, a flag was chosen to represent the United States of America. The colors of the new flag were



red, white, and blue. There was one red or white stripe for each of the 13 original colonies.

In 1777, there were 13 white stars on the flag. The stars represented the 13 states in the new nation. The color behind the stars was blue.

Today, the American Flag is still red, white, and blue. There are still 13 stripes on the American Flag. Seven of the stripes are red. Six of the stripes are white. The stripes represent the 13 original colonies. There are now 50 white stars on the American Flag. There is one star for each of the 50 states.



The American Flag

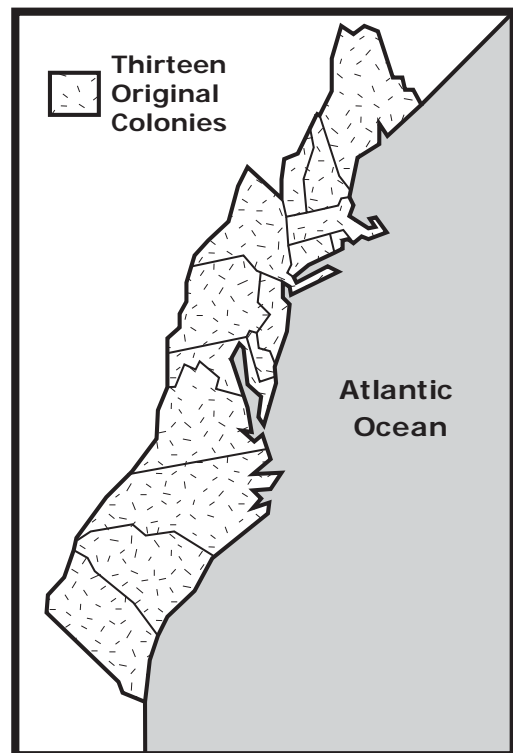
The American Flag is a very important **symbol** in our country. A symbol is an object that represents or stands for something else. Bravery, freedom, and honor are just three of the many things that the American Flag represents. Do you know the history of the American Flag?

The Thirteen Original Colonies

Hundreds of years ago, **colonists** from England sailed to America. Colonists are people who must follow someone else's rules. The colonists settled in 13 colonies along the Atlantic Ocean.

The colonists cut down trees and used the land for farming. They built churches, schools, and stores. The colonists did what the leaders in England told them to do.

The colonists wanted to make their own decisions. They were willing to fight for this freedom.



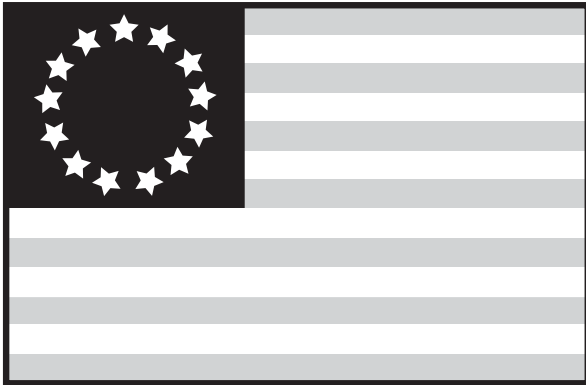
The Revolutionary War

In 1775, the first shots of the Revolutionary War were fired. England sent soldiers and supplies to fight against the colonists in America.

After a year of fighting, the colonists made a bold move. They declared their **independence** from England. Independence means freedom from someone else's control. The colonists named themselves the United States of America.

The American Flag

On June 14, 1777, a flag was chosen to represent the United States of America. The colors of the new flag were



red, white, and blue. There was one red or white stripe for each of the 13 original colonies.

In 1777, there were 13 white stars on the flag. The stars represented the 13 states in the new nation. The color behind the stars was blue.

Today, the American Flag is still red, white, and blue. There are still 13 stripes on the American Flag. Seven of the stripes are red. Six of the stripes are white. The stripes represent the 13 original colonies. There are now 50 white stars on the American Flag. There is one star for each of the 50 states.

Name _____

★ ★ ☆ ★ ☆ **The American Flag** ★ ☆ ★ ☆ ★

1. What is a **symbol**?

2. What are the three colors of the American Flag?

3. How many stripes are on the American Flag?

4. What does each stripe represent?

5. How many stars are on the American Flag today?

6. What does each star represent?

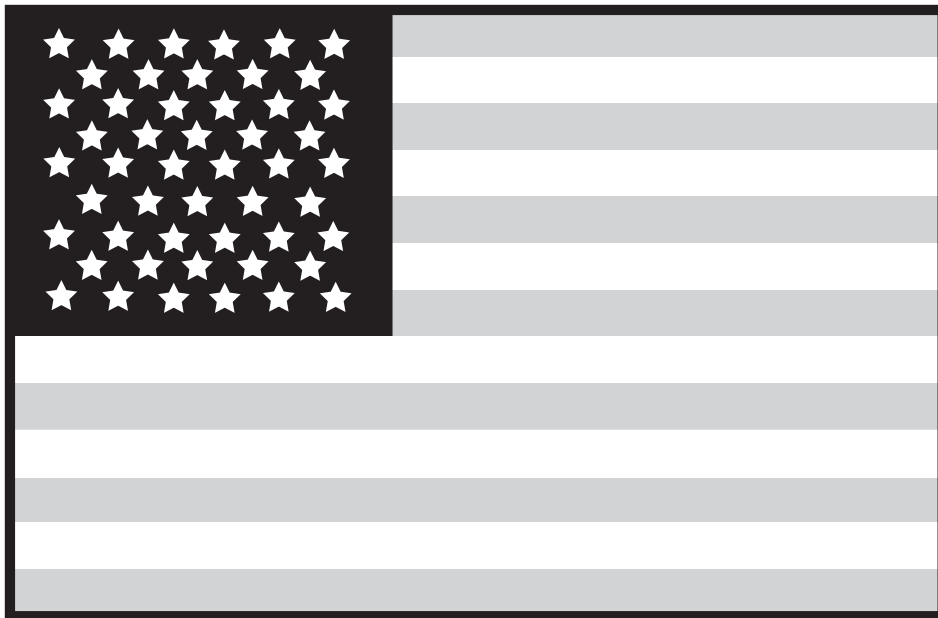


Directions: Neatly color the American Flag on the next page.

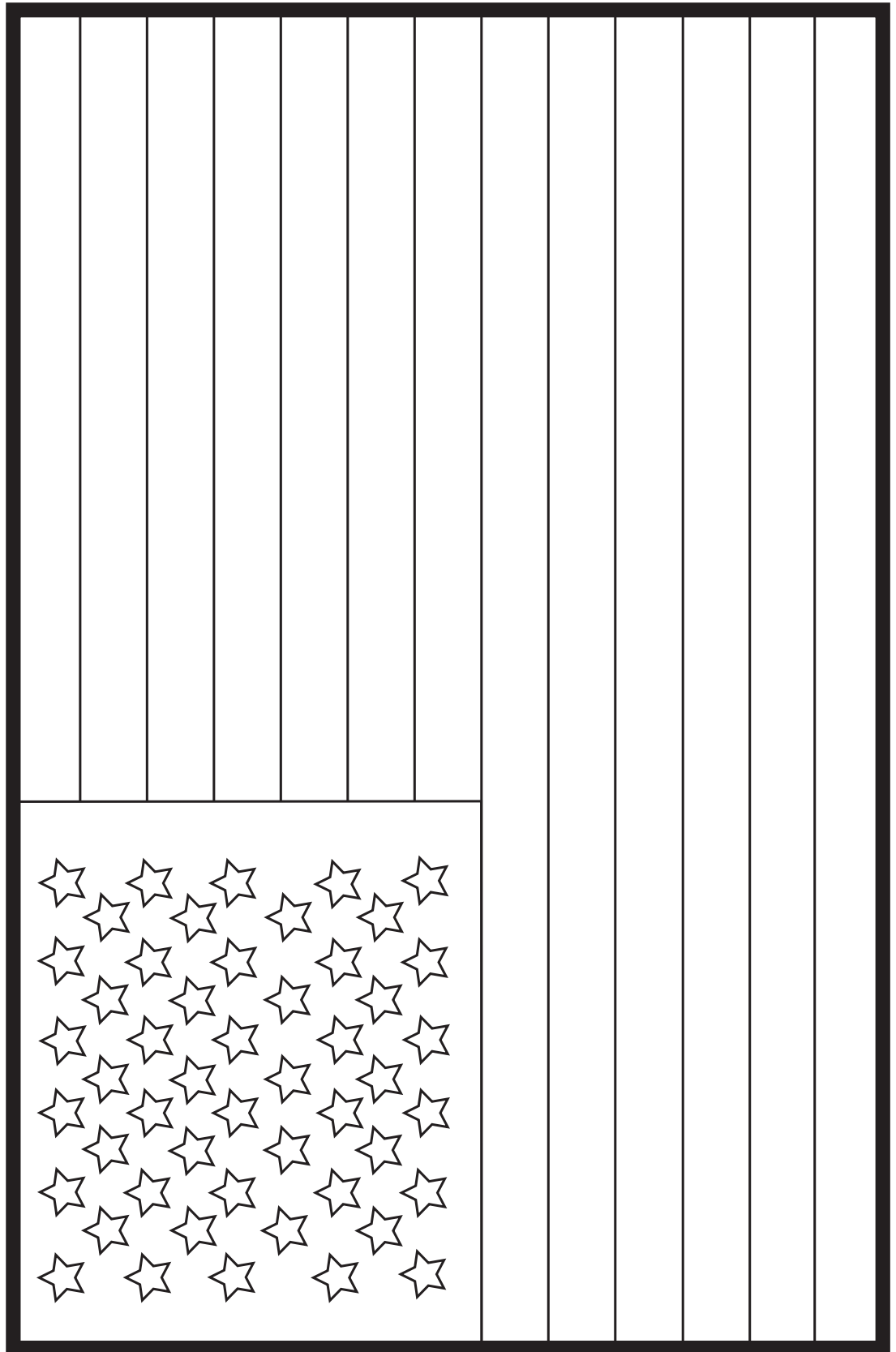
Color the area behind the stars **blue**.

Color the top stripe **red**. Color the next stripe **white**. Color the next stripe **red**. Continue this pattern until you have colored all 13 stripes **red** and **white**.

Color each of the 50 stars **white**.



Name _____





Answers

Comprehension Questions

1. A symbol is an object that represents or stands for something else.
2. Red, White, and Blue
3. 13
4. The 13 original colonies
5. 50
6. Each of the 50 states

The American Flag Grading Chart

Criteria	3	2	1	0	Score
Red	Neatly colored the top stripe and every other stripe red	Colored the top stripe and every other stripe red but was messy	Colored at least half of the red stripes correctly	Didn't attempt to color any of the stripes red	
White	Neatly colored the stars, second stripe, and every other stripe white	Colored the stars, second stripe, and every other stripe white, but was messy	Colored at least half of the stars and white stripes correctly	Didn't attempt to color the stars or the stripes white	
Blue	Neatly colored the area behind the stars blue	Colored the area behind the stars blue, but was messy	Colored at least half of the area behind the stars blue	Didn't attempt to color the area behind the stars white	
Total					