# The American Flag

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technology</th>
<th>Study / Life skills</th>
<th>EL-Civics</th>
<th>Career Pathways</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Police</td>
<td>Paramedic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fire Rescue</td>
<td>Medical Asst.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EKG / Cardio</td>
<td>Phlebotomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Phlebotomy</td>
<td>Practical Nursing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>Admin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pharmacy Tech</td>
<td>IMT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AMT</td>
<td>HVAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Welding</td>
<td>Other:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Staff Responsible for Lesson**
Jennifer Edwards

**Program Name**
Middletown ABLE

**Date(s) Used**
May 12, 2011

**Civics Category**
III. U.S. History and Government and Citizenship Preparation

**Civics Objective**
5. Government and Law – Citizenship Preparation
Respond to questions about the history and government of the United States in order to be successful in the naturalization process.

**Time Frame to Complete Lesson**
30-45 minutes

**EFL(s)**
4 (High Intermediate)

**Standard(s)/Components of Performance**
Read with Understanding

**Benchmark(s)**

- R.4.1. Comprehend information in common forms and simple paragraphs (e.g. simple job application, classifieds, phone book).
- R.4.2. Use strategies to understand text (e.g. use a basic ESOL dictionary or bilingual dictionary, apply context and language clues).
- R.4.3. Use strategies to monitor comprehension of simple paragraphs on familiar topics (restate, copy and rephrase text, use context).
- R.4.4. See clarification by asking and answering questions.

**Materials**

- *The American Flag* reading passage
- Dictionaries
### The American Flag

| Activities | 1. Ask students about the flags of their native countries. Is the flag an important symbol? What colors or pictures appear on the flag? When is the flag displayed?  
2. Ask students what the flag of the United States of America looks like. (Most will at least be able to identify the colors and basic design of stars and stripes.) Explain that the U.S. flag is an important part of our culture and they will learn more about it in today’s lesson.  
3. Distribute The American Flag reading passage. Students should first look at the words in **boldface**, and use a dictionary to define them on the worksheet.  
4. Students read the passage about the American Flag and answer the questions. (These questions are based upon Naturalization Test questions.)  
5. Check work as a class and answer questions as needed. |

| Assessment/Evidence | Completed questions |

| Reflection | Although this lesson is targeted for Level 4, I used it with all levels. (My beginning students were paired with more experienced learners.)  
As a follow-up to this activity, students used colored pencils to draw the flags of their native countries. Then, students shared their drawings and explained what the symbols/colors meant. Students found this activity very engaging, and it provided them with speaking practice. |
The American Flag

The American flag is a symbol of our country. The first flag of our colonies was called the Old Union. It used the colors red, white, and blue to and contained a small version of the British because the colonies were still considered part of England. This flag is called the Grand Union flag.

In 1776, Betsy Ross sewed the first American flag when the colonies declared their independence from England. The Continental Congress ordered that the flag have thirteen stripes (alternating red and white) and thirteen stars to represent the 13 original colonies: Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island.
The American Flag

In 1818, President James Monroe ordered that a new star would be added to the flag for each new state of the United States. As America has grown, many more stars have been added. In 1960, our flag added a star for Hawaii, our final state. Our flag now has thirteen stripes and fifty stars. The thirteen stripes represent the thirteen original colonies; the fifty stars represent the fifty states. The colors of the flag are symbolic, too. Red symbolizes bravery, white symbolizes purity, and blue represents perseverance and justice.

Other nicknames for the flag include Old Glory and The Star Spangled Banner. The Star Spangled Banner is also the name of our national anthem, a song written by Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812.

There are a number of rules regarding the display of the American Flag. Some important rules include:

- The U.S. flag should never touch the ground.
- The U.S. flag should be flown in nice weather only, unless the material is suitable for all types of weather.
- The flag should be lighted at all times (daylight or a light source).
- The flag must not be decorated on in any way including being written on with words, numbers, or pictures.
- When the flag is no longer in good condition, it should be burned in a respectful manner.
The American Flag

Words to Know:

Symbol
Colonies
Independence
Represent
Perseverance
Spangled
Anthem
Display

Questions:

1. Who sewed the first flag of the United States?

2. From what country did the U.S.A. gain its independence during the American Revolution?

3. What do the colors on the U.S. flag symbolize?

4. What do the 13 stripes represent?

5. How many stars are on the current U.S. flag?

6. What is another name for an American flag?

7. Who wrote “The Star Spangled Banner”? 
The American Flag

ANSWER KEY

Words to Know:
Symbol – an object that represents something else
Colonies – an area that is ruled by another country
Independence – freedom from another person, organization, or state
Represent – to symbolize or stand for something
Perseverance – steady and continued action or belief
Spangled – decorated with sparkling objects
Anthem – a song praising and/or declaring loyalty to something (for example: country, cause, or organization)
Display – to make visible for others to see

Questions:

1. Who sewed the first flag of the United States?
   Betsy Ross

2. From what country did the U.S.A. gain its independence during the American Revolution?
   England

3. What do the colors on the U.S. flag symbolize?
   Red = Bravery; White = Purity; Blue = Perseverance

4. What do the 13 stripes represent?
   The 13 original colonies

5. How many stars are on the current U.S. flag?
   50

6. What is another name for an American flag?
   The Star Spangled Banner, Old Glory

7. Who wrote “The Star Spangled Banner”?
   Francis Scott Key