

Title: The Betsy Ross Flag Company

Objectives: To learn about the United States flag and to be able to use the information to create a new, meaningful flag.	Time frame to Complete Varies with each student or teacher can set a specific time limit
	NRS EFL 4

Stackable Cert.	Documentation	Technology	Study / Life skills	EL-Civics	Career Pathways	Police	Paramedic	Fire Rescue	Medical Asst.	EKG / Cardio	Phlebotomy	Practical Nursing	Healthcare Admin	Pharmacy Tech	IMT	AMT	HVAC	Welding	Other:	
X			X																	

Standard(s) Addressed in Lesson

Read with Understanding

Benchmark(s) Addressed in Lesson

R.4.1 – Identify purposes for reading (to solve a problem)
 R.4.15 - draw conclusion about text using knowledge of main idea(s) and supporting details, consistent with complexity of the text
 R.4.16 – construct meaning from text by evaluating relevance of prior knowledge and applying appropriate knowledge to new information read

Materials

- History of the American Flag handout, available from: <http://www.usa-flag-site.org/history.shtml>
- When and How to Display the American Flag handout, available from: <http://www.teachervision.fen.com/united-states/flags/6876.html?detoured=1>
- drawing page
- pencil
- colored pencils/crayons/paint
- computer with internet access (optional)

Learner Prior Knowledge

-What the U.S. flag looks like and possible knowledge of the parts of the flag (# of stars, # of stripes, etc.)

Activities

Step 1 Teacher shows a real U.S. flag to the students and they discuss the parts of the flag (red and white stripes, stars, # of each, etc.)

Step 2 Teacher explains that each student is now employed in the Betsy Ross Flag Company. Their job is to learn as much as they can about the United States flag. This will be accomplished by reading the two papers given to everyone with information about the flag. If they need more information, they can search for web sites on the United States flag and do more research. Then each student will be responsible for designing a new United States flag. Each part of the flag must have meaning and represent the United States. Any design and color can be used.

Step 3 Teacher passes out the information sheets about the flag. Then he passes out the drawing paper with 2 boxes on it. In the top box the student is to draw the flag in color. In the second box the student is to write an explanation for each part of the design of the flag and explain the meaning (For example: stars represent the states). Nothing is to be on the flag that does not have a specific meaning for the United States.

Step 4 After the students are finished, the papers are shared and explained. A vote is taken on which flag will be manufactured at the Betsy Ross Flag Company.

Assessment/Evidence

Each student's paper is examined for meaning and following directions.

Adaptations for Beginning Students

Explanation does not have to be written, but can be orally explained.

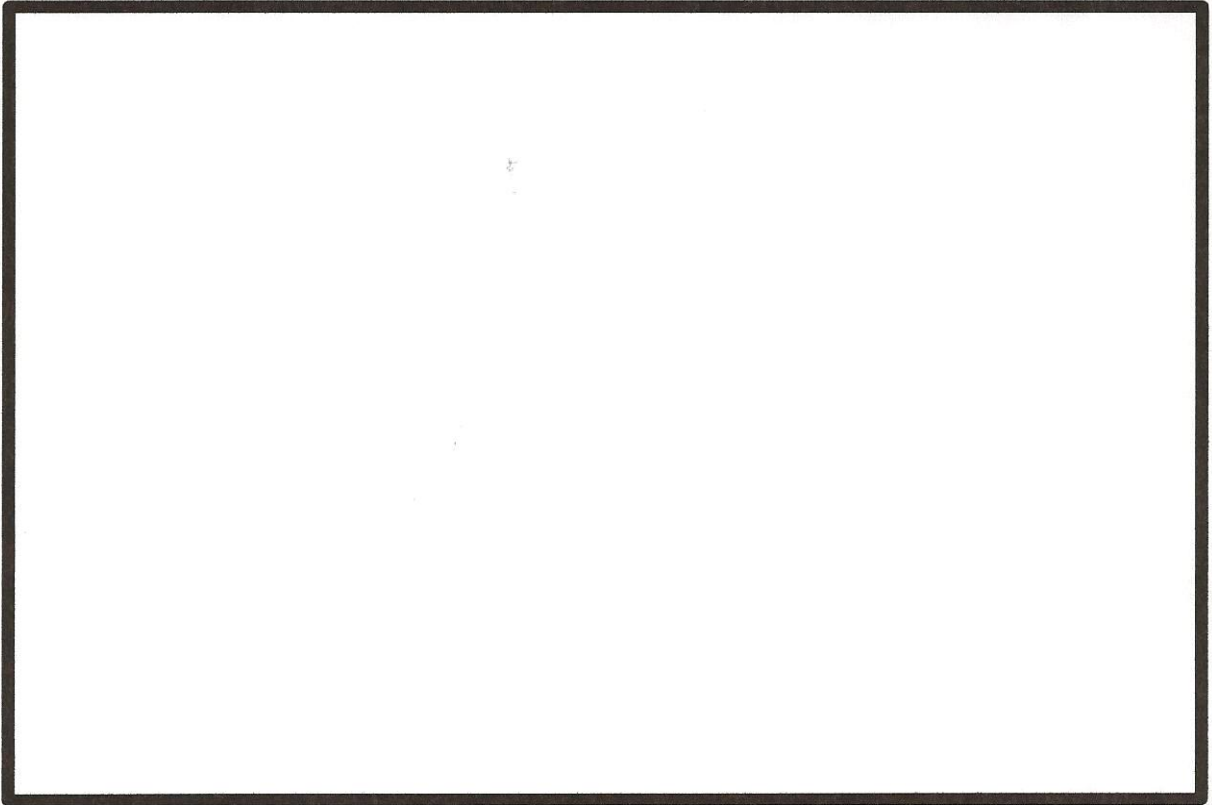
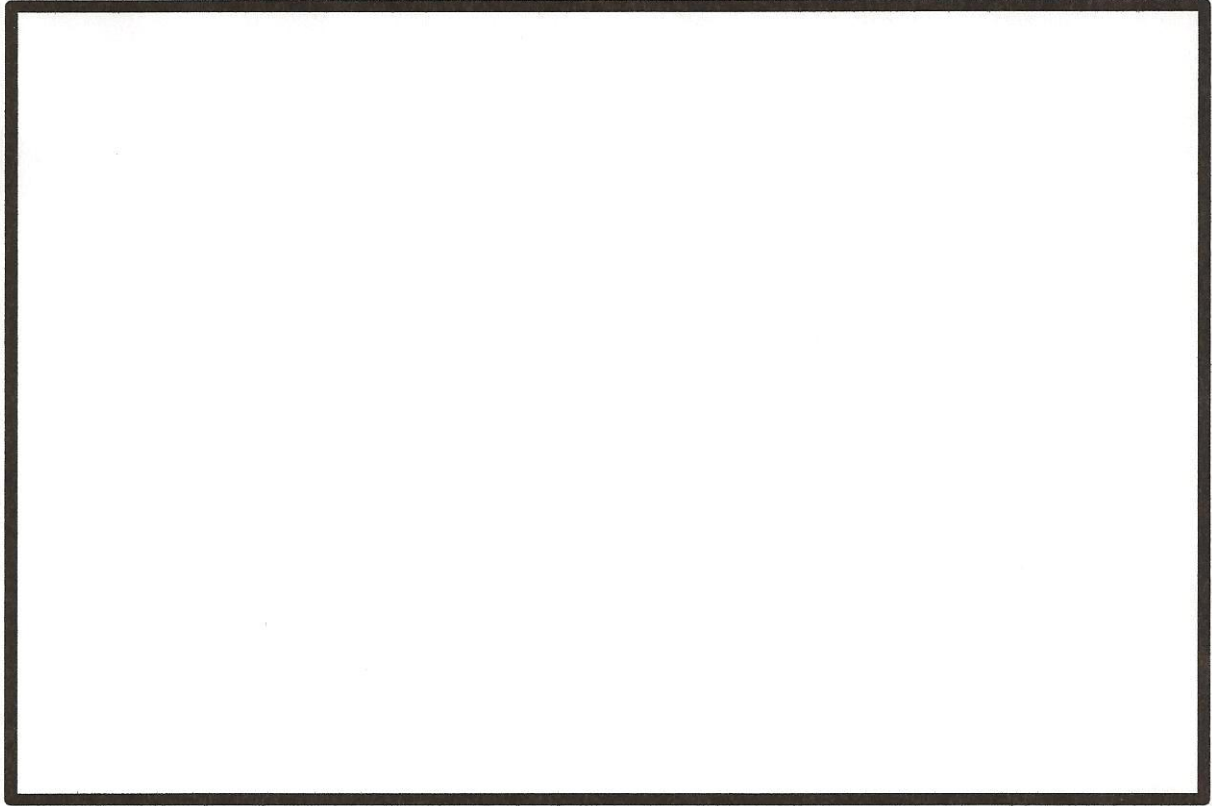
Adaptations for Advanced Students

Student can figure out if his flag would be expensive or cheap to manufacture, considering number of colors to be used, type of material, etc.

Teacher Reflection/Lesson Evaluation

This lesson was created by Middletown ABLE.

Name _____ Date _____



History of American Flag.

For more than 200 years, the American flag has been the symbol of our nation's strength and unity. It's been a source of pride and inspiration for millions of citizens. And the American Flag has been a prominent icon in our national history. Here are the highlights of its unique past.

On January 1, 1776, the Continental Army was reorganized in accordance with a Congressional resolution which placed American forces under George Washington's control. On that New Year's Day the Continental Army was laying siege to Boston which had been taken over by the British Army. Washington ordered the Grand Union flag hoisted above his base at Prospect Hill. It had 13 alternate red and white stripes and the British Union Jack in the upper left-hand corner (the canton).

In May of 1776, Betsy Ross reported that she sewed the first American flag.

On June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act: "Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."

Between 1777 and 1960, Congress passed several acts that changed the shape, design and arrangement of the flag and allowed for additional stars and stripes to be added to reflect the admission of each new state.

- Act of January 13, 1794 - provided for 15 stripes and 15 stars after May 1795.
- Act of April 4, 1818 - provided for 13 stripes and one star for each state, to be added to the flag on the 4th of July following the admission of each new state, signed by President Monroe.
- Executive Order of President Taft dated June 24, 1912 - established proportions of the flag and provided for arrangement of the stars in six horizontal rows of eight each, a single point of each star to be upward.
- Executive Order of President Eisenhower dated January 3, 1959 - provided for the arrangement of the stars in seven rows of seven stars each, staggered horizontally and vertically.
- Executive Order of President Eisenhower dated August 21, 1959 - provided for the arrangement of the stars in nine rows of stars staggered horizontally and eleven rows of stars staggered vertically.

Today the flag consists of thirteen horizontal stripes, seven red alternating with 6 white. The stripes represent the original 13 colonies, the stars represent the 50 states of the Union. The colors of the flag are symbolic as well: Red symbolizes Hardiness and Valor, White symbolizes Purity and Innocence and Blue represents Vigilance, Perseverance and Justice.

When and How to Display the U.S. Flag

The United States Flag Code stipulates that as the symbol of a living country, the flag is considered in itself a living thing and should be properly displayed and cared for. The code outlines the proper ways to display the American flag.

- Raise the flag briskly. Lower it ceremoniously.
- Never allow the flag to touch the ground or floor.
- Do not fly the flag in bad weather, unless it is an all-weather flag.
- The flag can only be flown at night if properly illuminated. Otherwise, it should only be flown from sunrise to sunset.
- The flag should always be allowed to fall free.
- The flag should never be used to carry, store, or deliver anything.
- Never fly the flag upside down except to signal an emergency.

Ceremonial

- When hung over a sidewalk on a rope extending from a building, the stars are always away from the building.
- When the flag is hung over a street running east to west, the stars are always toward the north. When the flag is hung over a street running north to south, the stars are always toward the east.
- When a group of flags is being displayed, the U.S. flag should be at the center and at the highest point. The only exception is when the flag of another nation is being flown—national flags should be of the same size and fly at the same height.
- When covering a casket, the stars should be at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should never touch the ground or be lowered into the grave.

Inside

- When on a speaker's podium, the flag should be either above and behind the speaker, or to the speaker's right as he faces the audience.
- When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union (blue field) should be uppermost and to the flag's right, that is, the observer's left.
- In a window, or suspended above a corridor, the flag should hang with the union on the viewer's left.

Government

- The flag should be flown daily at the main administration building of public institutions.
- Polling places should display a flag on election days.
- School buildings should display a flag when school is in session.
- Flags should fly at half-mast on the deaths of certain government officials.
- When the flag is displayed against a wall with another flag from crossed staffs, the U.S. flag should be on the right (facing the audience) and its staff should be on top of the other flag's.

Parades

- When the flag is carried in procession with other flags, it should be either on the right of the line of flags, or in front of the center of the line.
- On floats, the flag should be displayed on a staff.
- The flag should not be draped over a car, train, or boat. When displayed with a car, the flag's staff should be attached to the right fender, or the chassis.
- The flag should be held upright and should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental, state, or organizational flags may be dipped.

Decorative

- The flag should never be used as clothing, bedding, or drapery. Red, white, and blue bunting may be used as decoration instead, with the blue on top, white in the middle, and red below.
- The flag should never be part of a uniform, but a flag patch or lapel pin can be part of a police or other uniform.
- The flag should not be used to cover a statue or monument.
- The flag should not be used to cover a ceiling.
- Advertising banners should not be hung from the same staff as a flag.
- The flag should not appear on napkins, boxes, or other disposable items, nor should it be embroidered on cushions, handkerchiefs, or similar objects.