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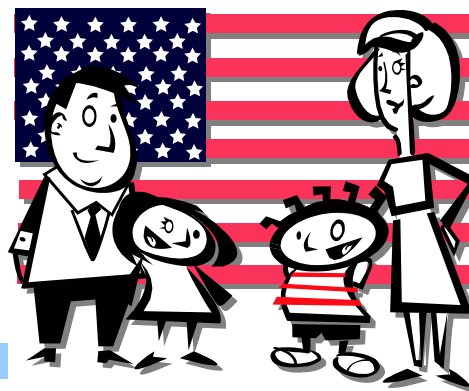
THE U.S. FLAG

FILM IDEAS, INC.

2002

Grade Levels: 3-8

13 minutes



DESCRIPTION

Recalls the history of the United States flag from the Revolutionary War to the present. Explains what flags symbolize and what the parts of the flag mean. Also recalls flag etiquette and stresses the importance of respecting this symbol of America.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Civics

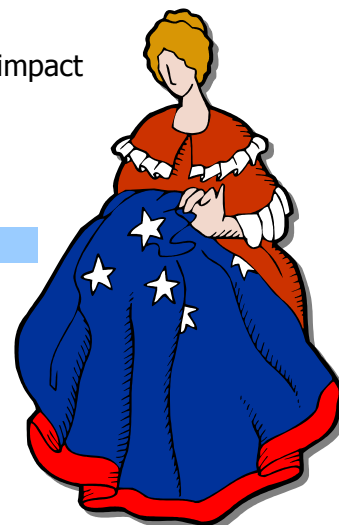
- Standard: Understands the importance of Americans sharing and supporting certain values, beliefs, and principles of American constitutional democracy
 - Benchmark: Knows how various symbols are used to depict Americans' shared values, principles, and beliefs and explain their meaning (e.g., the flag, Statue of Liberty, Statue of Justice, Uncle Sam, great seal, national anthem, oaths of office, mottoes such as E Pluribus Unum)

Subject Area: Historical Understanding

- Standard: Understands the historical perspective
 - Benchmark: Understands that specific individuals had a great impact on history
 - Benchmark: Understands that specific ideas had an impact on history

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To define what *symbols* are and what the U.S. flag represents.
2. To review the history of the U.S. Flag.
3. To demonstrate how to properly care and display the U.S. flag.
4. To introduce the important people and events involved with the origins and creation of the U.S. flag.
5. To explore the meaning of Memorial Day, *The Star-Spangled Banner*, and The Pledge of Allegiance.



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The historic story of the American flag is told from Revolutionary War days to the present. Viewers see many of the flags that have flown over the United States: the "Join or Die," the "Don't Tread on Me," the "Continental Colors," and the Stars and Stripes, while learning the historical background of each one. Learn what the flags symbolize, what the various parts mean, and how to maintain and properly display the American flag. Explains how the flag

prompted Francis Scott Key to write *the star-spangled banner* and tells when and under what circumstances the “pledge of allegiance” was written. Fun facts, such as the far-flung places the stars and stripes have been flown, why our flag is known as old glory, and the world’s largest flag, are presented.

VOCABULARY

1. Betsy Ross
2. Declaration of Independence
3. Francis Bellamy
4. Francis Scott Key
5. Memorial Day
6. Pledge of Allegiance
7. symbol
8. U.S. Flag

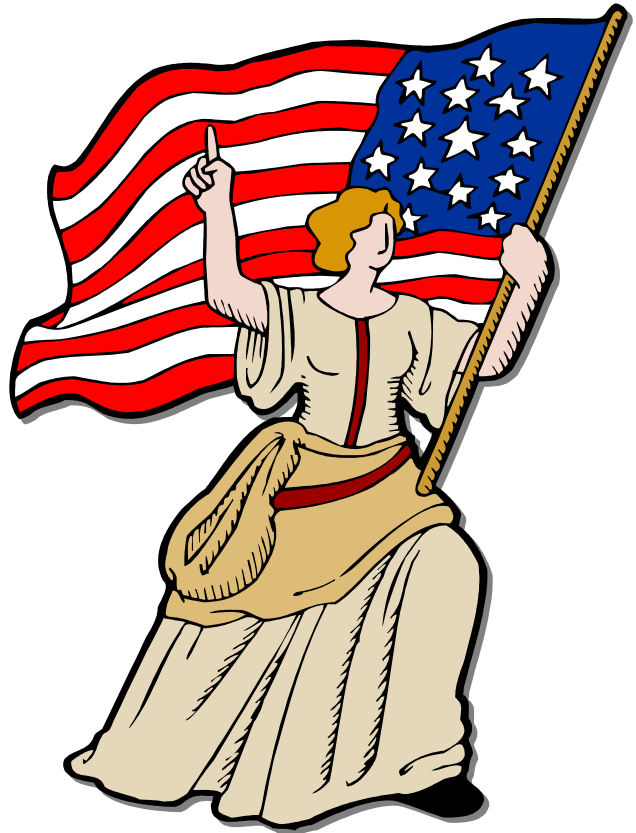
AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Name places where the U.S. flag is flown for 24 hours every day.
2. What does the U.S. flag represent?
3. What do the stars represent? How many stars are on the U.S. flag today? What do the stripes represent? How many stripes are on the U.S. flag today?
4. What does the Pledge of Allegiance mean? Who wrote it? Who wrote the *Star-Spangled Banner*?
5. The U.S. flag has been given different nicknames. Can you name some of these different nicknames?

Applications and Activities

1. Symbols communicate ideas. Have students draw or cut out different symbols from publications and present them to their fellow classmates. As the symbols are presented, have them describe what they think each symbol represents.
2. The video explains how to properly care and display the flag. After reviewing the rules for flag etiquette, assign the students to display the flag in the classroom and then have them recite the “Pledge of Allegiance” and the *Star-Spangled Banner*.
3. Throughout American history, there have been times when the U.S. flag has flown at half-mast. Discuss what *half-mast* means, the times when this has happened, and why this is done.
4. America is a country made up of many immigrants from all over the world. Discuss the main reason why so many people leave their homelands to live in America.



RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- American Bald Eagle #9436
- Images of Liberty #9437
- Old Glory #3277
- A Pledge Is a Promise #3397
- The Story of the National Anthem #3413
- Uncle Sam #9441
- What Is a Flag #3419
- The White House #9439



World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

• THE BETSY ROSS HOMEPAGE

<http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/index.html>

What do the red, white and blue represent? Need a picture of Betsy Ross? What does the American flag mean to you? Answers these and other questions, and you can submit your answer on various topics.

• THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

<http://www.usflag.org/toc.html>

Discover the history of the flag, the Pledge of Allegiance, Flag Day, and other topics. Find out why the flag became known as "Old Glory," and why Francis Scott Key was there on September 14, 1814. Covers miscellaneous facts as well.

• AWESOME LIBRARY—AMERICAN FLAG

<http://www.americanflag.com>

Lists guidelines for displaying the flag and provides printable flag images and flag desktop themes.

