



# Table of Contents

Objectives ..... 5

The History of the United States Flag *To the Teacher* ..... 6

The History of Flags and What They Mean *Handout 1* ..... 7

The History of the Flag of the United States *Handout 2* ..... 8

Flag Match *Handout 3* ..... 11

Parts of the Flag *Handout 4* ..... 12

The History of the Pledge of Allegiance *To the Teacher* ..... 13

The Pledge of Allegiance–*The Youth’s Companion Handout 5* ..... 14

The History of the Pledge of Allegiance *Handout 6* ..... 15

The Vocabulary Builder *Handout 7* ..... 16

Pledge Crossword *Handout 8* ..... 17

Pledge Flag Comparison *Handout 9* ..... 18

What’s in a Color? *Handout 10* ..... 19

Flag Burning and the Constitution *To the Teacher* ..... 20

Texas v. Johnson Supreme Court Case 491 U.S. 397 (1989) *Handout 11* ..... 21

The President and the Bill of Rights *Handout 12* ..... 23

The President and the Bill of Rights Cartoon Quiz *Handout 13* ..... 24

Flag Burning Draws a Crowd *Handout 14* ..... 25

Flag Burning Draws a Crowd Cartoon Quiz *Handout 15* ..... 26

The Supreme Court and the Pledge of Allegiance *To the Teacher* ..... 27

The Supreme Court and the Pledge of Allegiance  
 Minersville School District v. Gobitis *Handout 16* ..... 28

Understanding Minersville School District v. Gobitis  
*Handout 17* ..... 30

West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette  
*Handout 18* ..... 31

Understanding West Virginia State Board of Education  
 v. Barnette *Handout 19* ..... 33

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit and the Pledge of Allegiance *To the Teacher* ..... 34

The Constitution and the Federal Court System *Handout 20* ..... 35

Geographic Boundaries of the United States Courts of Appeals  
 and United States District Courts Map *Handout 21* ..... 36

Michael A. Newdow v. U.S. Congress and Others *Handout 22* ..... 37

Understanding Michael A. Newdow v. U.S. Congress *Handout 23* ..... 40

Michael A. Newdow v. U.S. Congress and Others Fernandez, Circuit Judge,  
 Concurring and Dissenting *Handout 24* ..... 41

Understanding Michael A. Newdow v. U.S. Congress and Others Fernandez,  
 Circuit Judge, Concurring and Dissenting *Handout 25* ..... 43

“One Nation” *Handout 26* ..... 44

Cartoon Quiz *Handout 27* ..... 45

Bibliography ..... 46

Answer Key ..... 47

# ***The History of the United States Flag***

## ***Objectives***

1. identify the parts of a flag
2. explain the history of the United States flag

## ***Background***

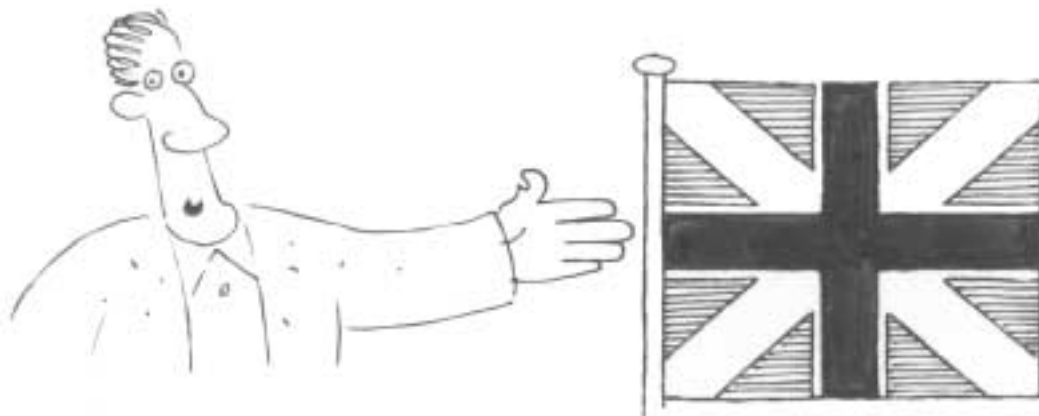
No other symbol of the United States is as revered as the United States flag and few are as old. Our flag, since Revolutionary times, has been a symbol around which Americans have always rallied. Its history, though, is bound up in mythology. Did George Washington design the American flag? Did Betsy Ross sew the first flag?

Like many of our institutions, the founders of our country borrowed from England to build the foundation of the new government—true of the flag as well. Our flag had its origins in the Union Jack, the flag of Great Britain. Our first flag contained the Union Jack in its canton. This section explains the beginnings of flags as a national symbol and describes notable flags in U.S. history.

## ***Suggested Lesson Plans***

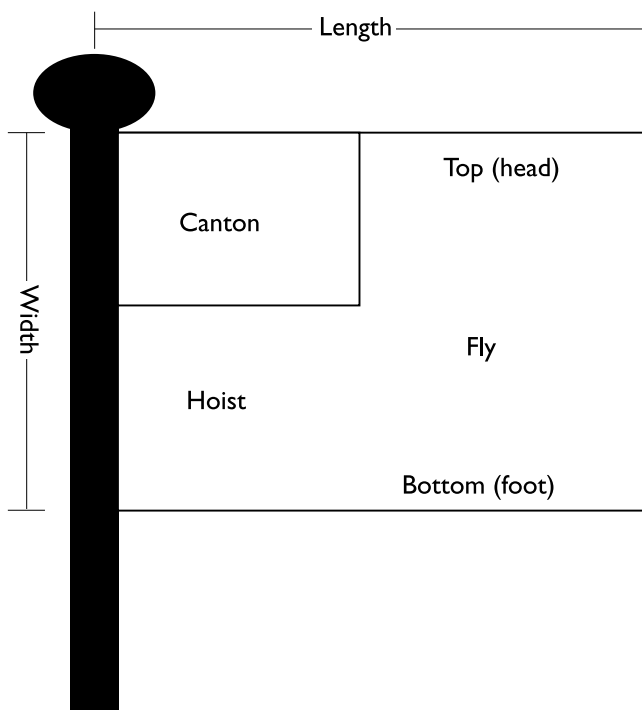
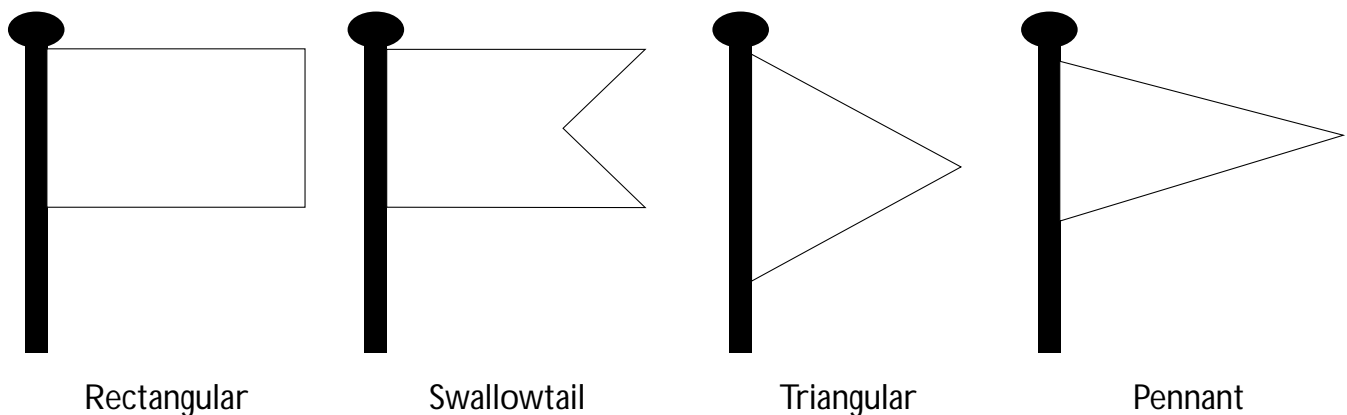
1. Explain the lesson objectives to students.
2. Distribute “The History of Flags and What They Mean,” Handout 1. Review how flags first came into use and the various kinds and parts of a flag with your students.
3. Distribute “The History of the Flag of the United States,” Handout 2 and review the evolution of the U.S. flag.
4. Distribute “Flag Match,” Handout 3 to check for comprehension.
5. Distribute “Parts of the Flag,” Handout 4 to check for comprehensive. Invite your students to complete this activity. Encourage your students to design their own U.S. flag.

Note: Handouts 3 and 4 may be used as pretests or posttests.



# The History of Flags and What They Mean

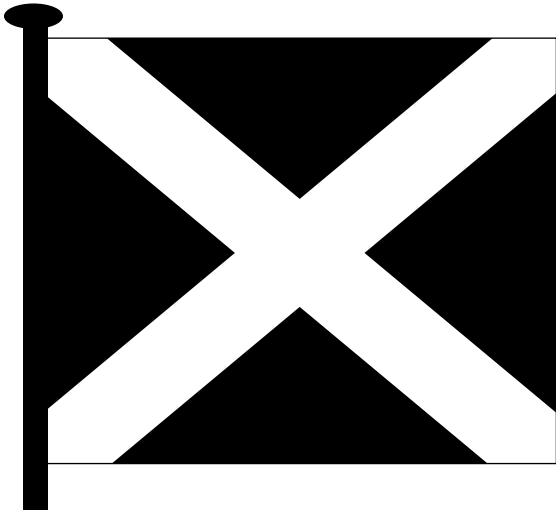
The use of flags dates as far back as 1122 BC in China. Emperor Chou had a white flag carried in front of him. The navy of Athens flew a purple flag as early as fifth century BC. These early flags were generally used as battle insignia or as a personal sign of the commander or the king for whom the soldiers were battling. Royal standards were carried into battle or displayed outside a castle as a way of making it known that the king was, in fact, in residence. The same was true if the monarch was present on a ship. For the most part, flags were used as a symbol of personal authority of kings and commanders. Flags were used to identify the soldiers in battle. At first, an insignia was worn on the fronts and backs of soldiers' armor. Flags did not become symbols of nations until centuries later.



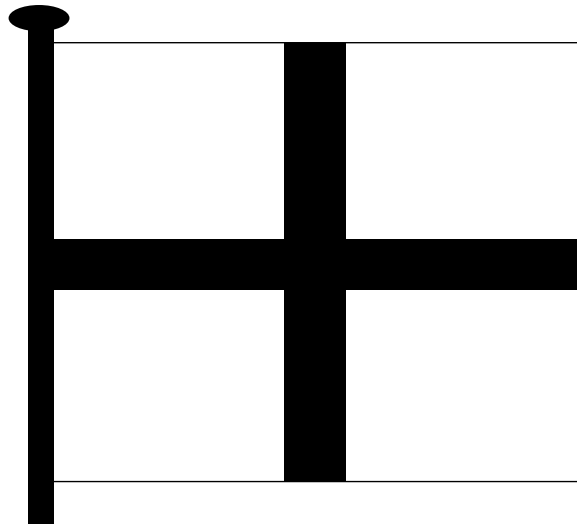
Henry Ward Beecher said, "A thoughtful mind when it sees a nation's flag, sees not the flag only, but the nation itself, and whatever may be its symbols, its insignia, he reads chiefly in the flag the government, the principles, the truths, the history, which belong to the nation that sets forth." Beecher's description of the flag is what flags have become today.

Though flags were symbols of kings and queens, and now nations, the word *flag* originated from the Saxon word *fflaken*, which means "to fly or float in the wind."

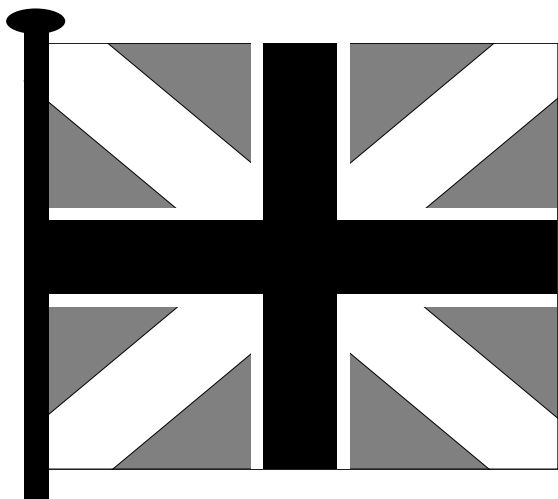
# *The History of the Flag of the United States*



According to Scottish legend, King Malcolm I took the Cross of St. Andrew (Scotland's patron saint) as a national flag because he saw the cross in a vision in the clear blue sky the day before the battle of Brunanbaugh in 937. This type of an X-shaped cross is referred to as a saltire.



One of the earliest flags of England is the Cross of St. George. St. George was a third century martyr who, legend tells, slew a dragon. The English armies began wearing the red cross on a white background as early as 1277, when Edward I had his armies wear the insignia into battle.



After Queen Elizabeth died in 1603 with no heirs, her cousin became the king of England and Scotland. In 1606, England and Scotland combined the Scottish Cross of St. Andrew and the English Cross of St. George to form the Union flag. King James merged the two in a flag called the King's Colours. At first this flag was flown on the jack-staff of royal and navy ships and became known as the Union Jack. Over time the King's Colours became known as the Union Jack.