





Lesson Plan: Our Flag - A Symbol of Our Nation

Grade Level: K-2 **Time:** 45-60 minutes

Theme: Understanding the American flag as a national symbol

Objectives

Students will:

1. Identify the American flag as a symbol of the United States.

- 2. Learn basic history of the flag and the meaning of its stars and stripes.
- 3. Understand President Eisenhower's role in creating the flag we know today.
- 4. Practice respect for the flag.
- 5. Create and build their own American flag craft.

Standards

While these standards are listed with Kansas numbers, they vary little from state to state.

- K.SP1.2 **Social Studies:** Understanding national symbols and traditions.
- SL.K.2 / SL.K.3 **ELA:** Listening and speaking in discussions.
- K.OA.A.1 Math: Adding simple numbers related to stars and stripes.
- K.CA.Cr1.1 Art: Coloring, cutting, and assembling a craft.

Materials

- Classroom Flag of the United States
- Powerpoint or Keynote slides, "Our Flag, A Symbol of our Nation"
- Printed activity sheets 1 of each per student:
 - "Color the Flag"
 - "Build Your Own American Flag"
- Red, white and blue crayons, markers, paints, or colored pencils whatever is on hand
- Scissors and glue sticks 1 per student
- Cardstock, poster board, or cardboard pieces, roughly 8" x 10" each 1 per student
- Book: Red, White & Blue: The Story of the American Flag by John Herman (or similar children's book about the American flag)
- Recording of song, "You're a Grand Old Flag" by John Herman



Lesson Activities

1. Introduction - Spot the Flag

- Use slides 2-3. Ask students: "Where do you see the flag in our classroom? What do you notice?"
- Discuss where else they might see the flag (schools, post office, homes, stadiums, the moon).

2. Discussion - What the Flag Means

- Use slides 4-7. Explain: "The flag is a symbol of our country and freedom. What is a symbol?"
- Ask: "What other symbols do you know? Why do you think people fly the flag? How does the flag make you feel?"
- Introduce vocabulary: symbol, patriotism.

3. History of the Flag

- Follow slides 8 14. Share: "The first flag had 13 stars and 13 stripes for the 13 colonies."
- Show students how the flag changed as new states joined.
- Introduce vocabulary: semiquincentennial, colony, independence
- Slides 15, 17, and 18 introduce **President Eisenhower** and his connections with the current-day 50-star flag.

Interactive math moments:

- Slide 11: Counting to 13; Addition 7 red + 6 white = 13 stripes
- Slide 13: Addition 13 states + 10 states = 23 states
- Slide 18: Addition 48 states + 2 states = 50 states

4. Respect for the Flag

• Slide 21: Discuss the rules of flag, **respect**. Discuss how we stand and put our right hand over our left chest to say "The Pledge of Allegiance." Have students practice doing this and saying *The Pledge*.



5. Craft - Build Your Own Flag

- Throughout the slide presentation, students should use the "Color the Flag" sheet to color in the 7 red stripes, 6 white stripes, and 50 stars as directed.
- Slide 22: This is an activity for kids to make their own flag. Guide them through the "Build your own American Flag" worksheet. Students will color, cut, and glue pieces to assemble their own flag on another thicker piece of cardstock, poster board or cardboard. (Optional: 1)Depending on the fine motor skills of your students, you may want to provide silver star stickers or enlarge all the shapes. 2) Students can use/ glue the flag to a popsicle stick or wooden skewer for the flag pole.)

6. Movement & Music

• Slide 23: Students march around the room while displaying their flags to "You're a Grand Old Flag." Song link is on the slide or can be found at https://youtu.be/s012beCe_ac?si=nbgPleO6qZYZ4dpu. The lyrics are provided on slide 24.

7. Closing Story & Reflection

- Slide 25: Read aloud or show the video of the book, Red, White & Blue: The Story of the American Flag by John Herman. Story link is on the slide or can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9aubKtYkvc.
- Quick share: "What did you learn today about our flag?"

Informal Assessment

- Observe student participation in discussions.
- Check completed flag crafts for correct coloring and assembly.
- Listen for student explanations of what the flag represents.
- Play "Ready, Set, Solve It" review game. Link to game is provided on IKEducation webpage: https://eisenhowerfoundation.net/page/our-flag

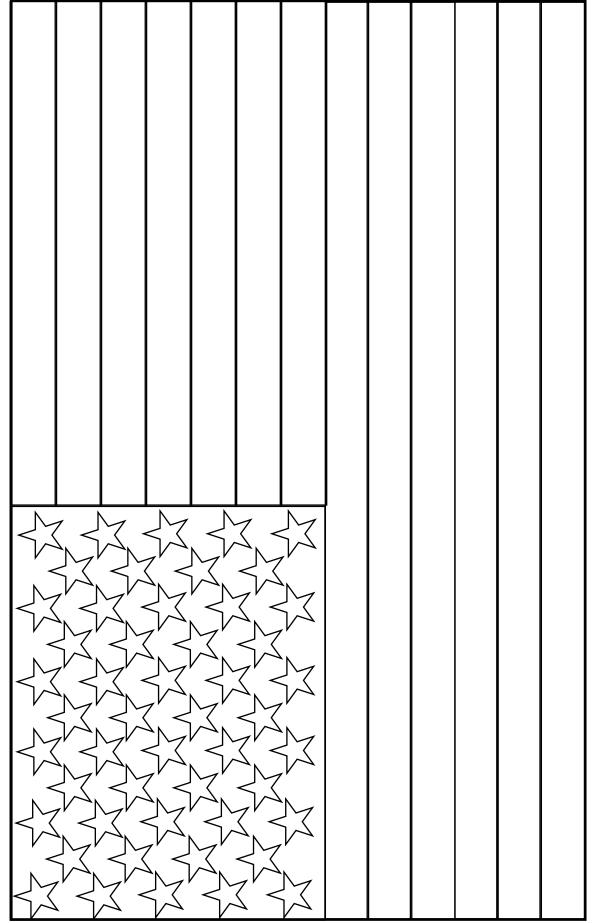
Extension Ideas

- Create a class book: "Our Flag Makes Me Feel..." with student drawings/writings.
- Compare the American flag to other countries' flags.
- Do a flag-raising ceremony at recess.



Color the Flag

Color in the flag as directed during the lesson.





Build Your Own American Flag

- 1. Color in the shapes as directed.
- 2. Carefully cut out the colored shapes.

3. Glue the pieces in the correct order on thicker paper to create your flag.

