

Our Flag: A Symbol of our Nation



Our flag is everywhere. Locate the flag in our classroom.

- What do you see?
- What do you think you know about this flag?

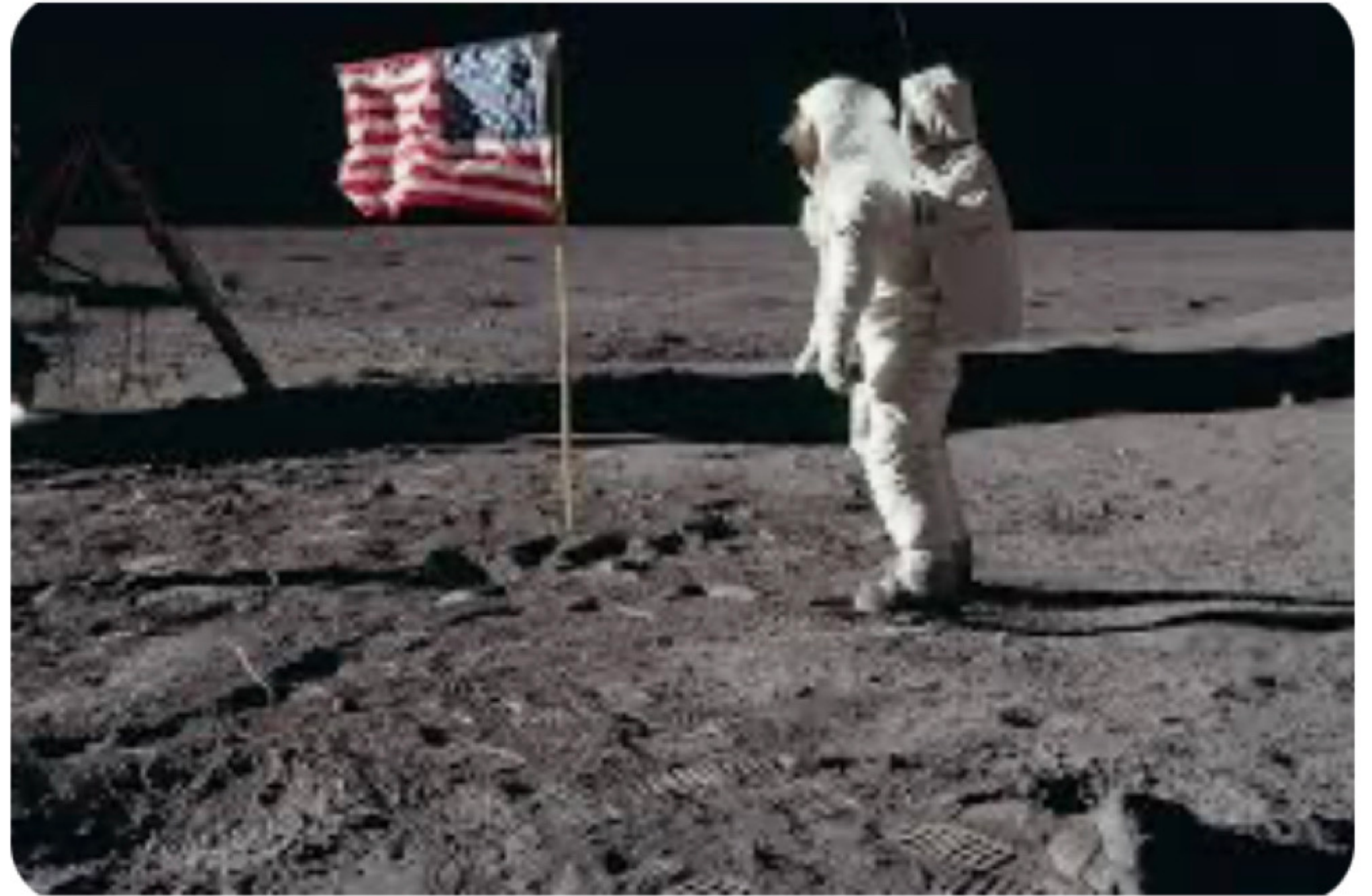


Discuss

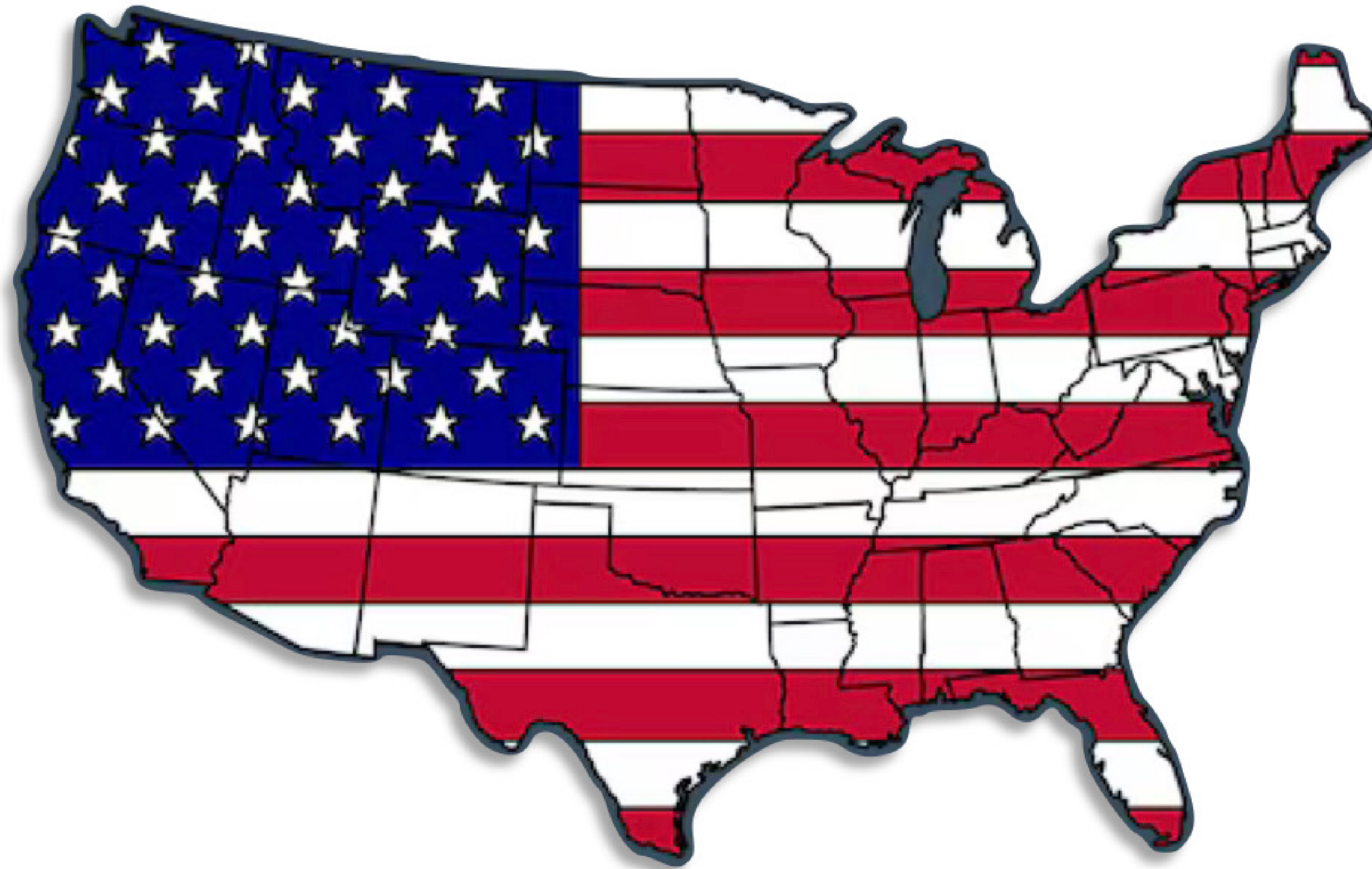
**Can you name another place
where you may see our flag flying?**

Did anyone say the moon?

That's right! In 1969, the first U.S. astronauts to walk on the surface of the moon planted an American flag!



Our flag is a symbol for our country,
The United States of America.



Discuss

Why do you think people fly the American flag?
What does it mean?

Our flag is a **symbol of freedom**.

*A **symbol** represents or stands for something else.

Some symbols are important to your safety. What do these symbols stand for?



= Caution or
Danger

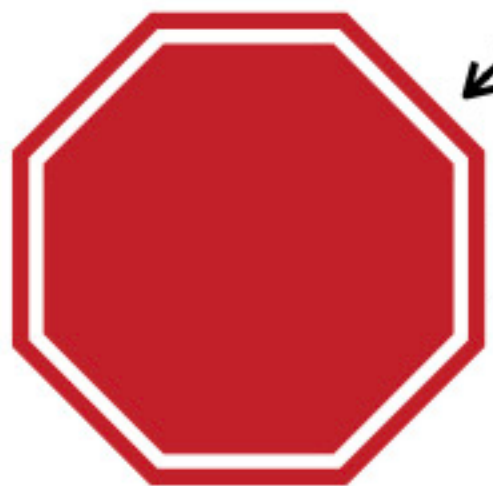


= _____



= _____

What is this a symbol for?

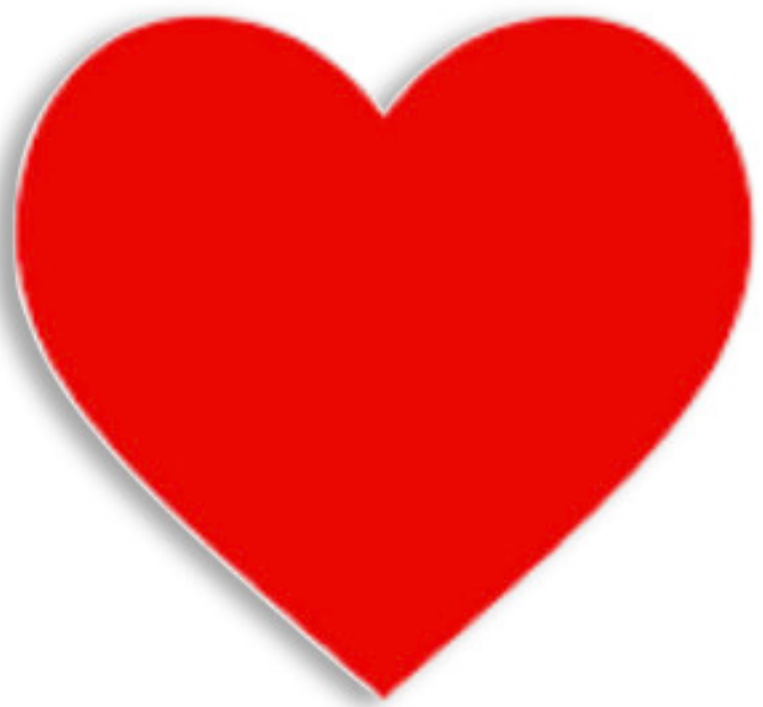


Discuss

Can you name other safety symbols and what they represent?

Symbols often represent an emotion or feeling.

What do these symbols stand for?



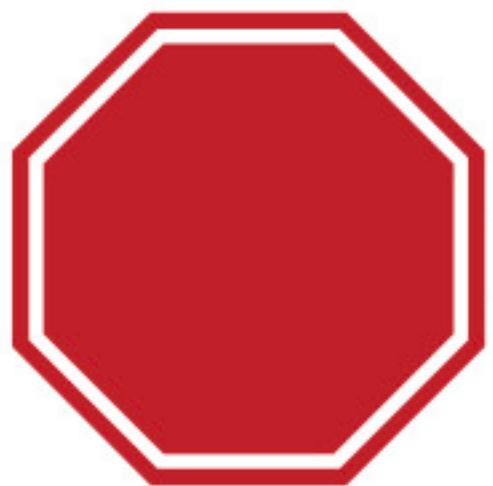
= Love



=



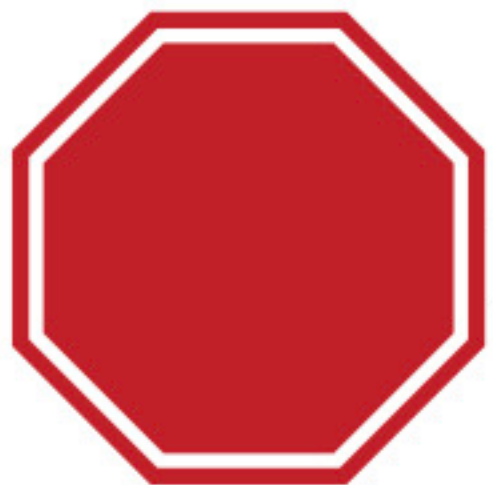
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Discuss

How does the American flag make you feel?

Hopefully, the American flag makes you feel **patriotic**, or proud of the U.S.A.



Discuss

Are there any holidays that make you feel patriotic?

The first American flag was made when the United States first became a country in 1776.

That was 250 years ago!

Which is why America is starting to celebrate our semiquincentennial!

Say it together:
semi • quin • cen • ten • nial



Betsy Ross may have sewn the first American flag after George Washington showed her a sketch and asked if she could sew it.



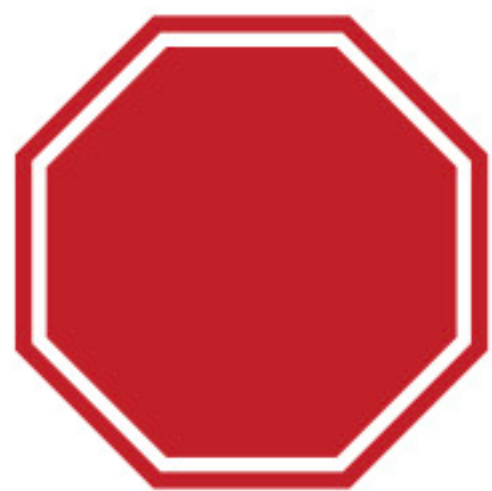
When the **United States** became a country in 1776, the first flag had 13 stars and 13 stripes.

WHY?

Our country was made up of 13 **colonies** ruled by the king of Great Britain.

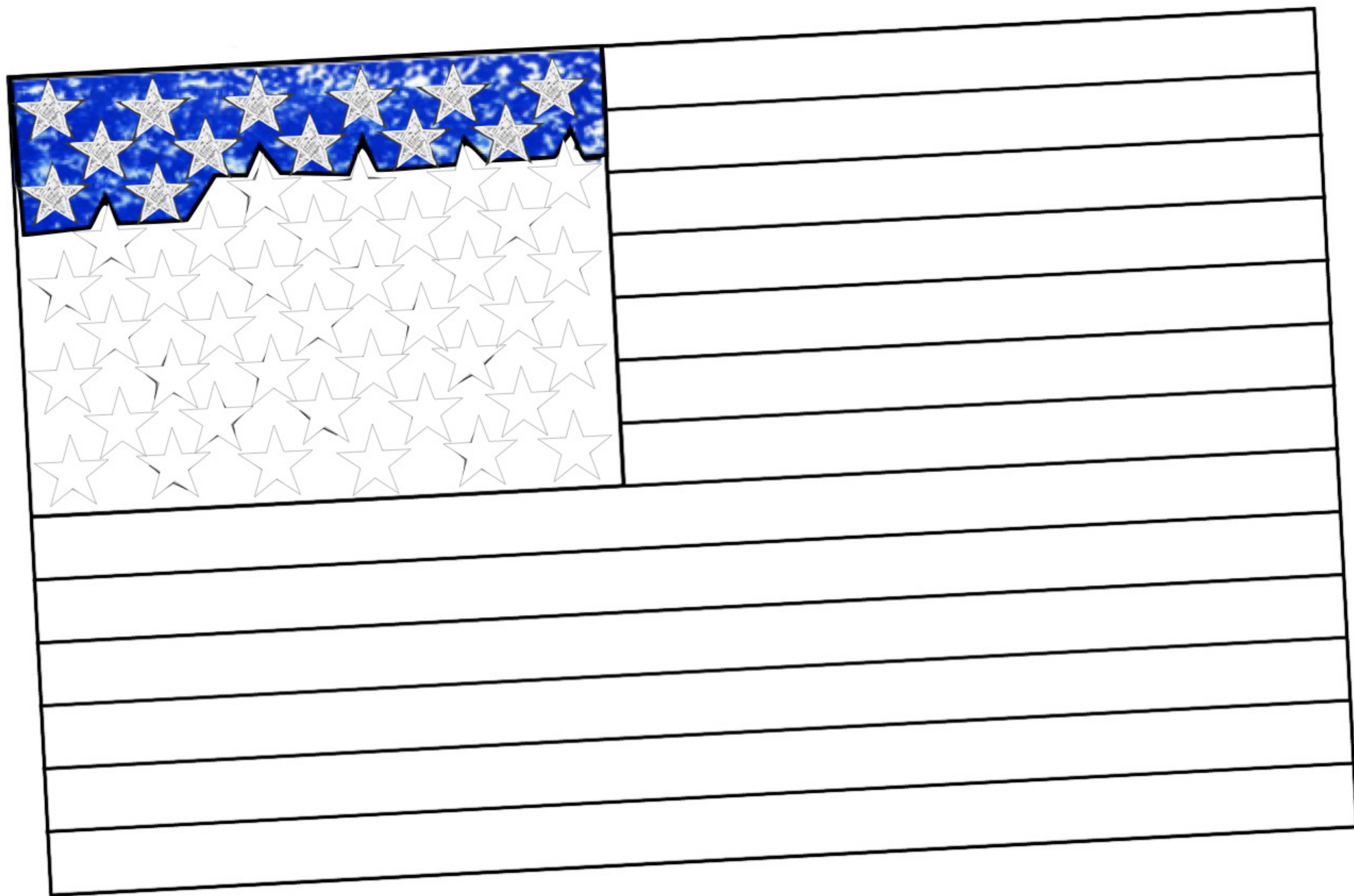
* A **colony** is when people create a new settlement in a faraway land.

However, the Americans did not want this and declared their **independence** from Great Britain, turning the colonies into "states."

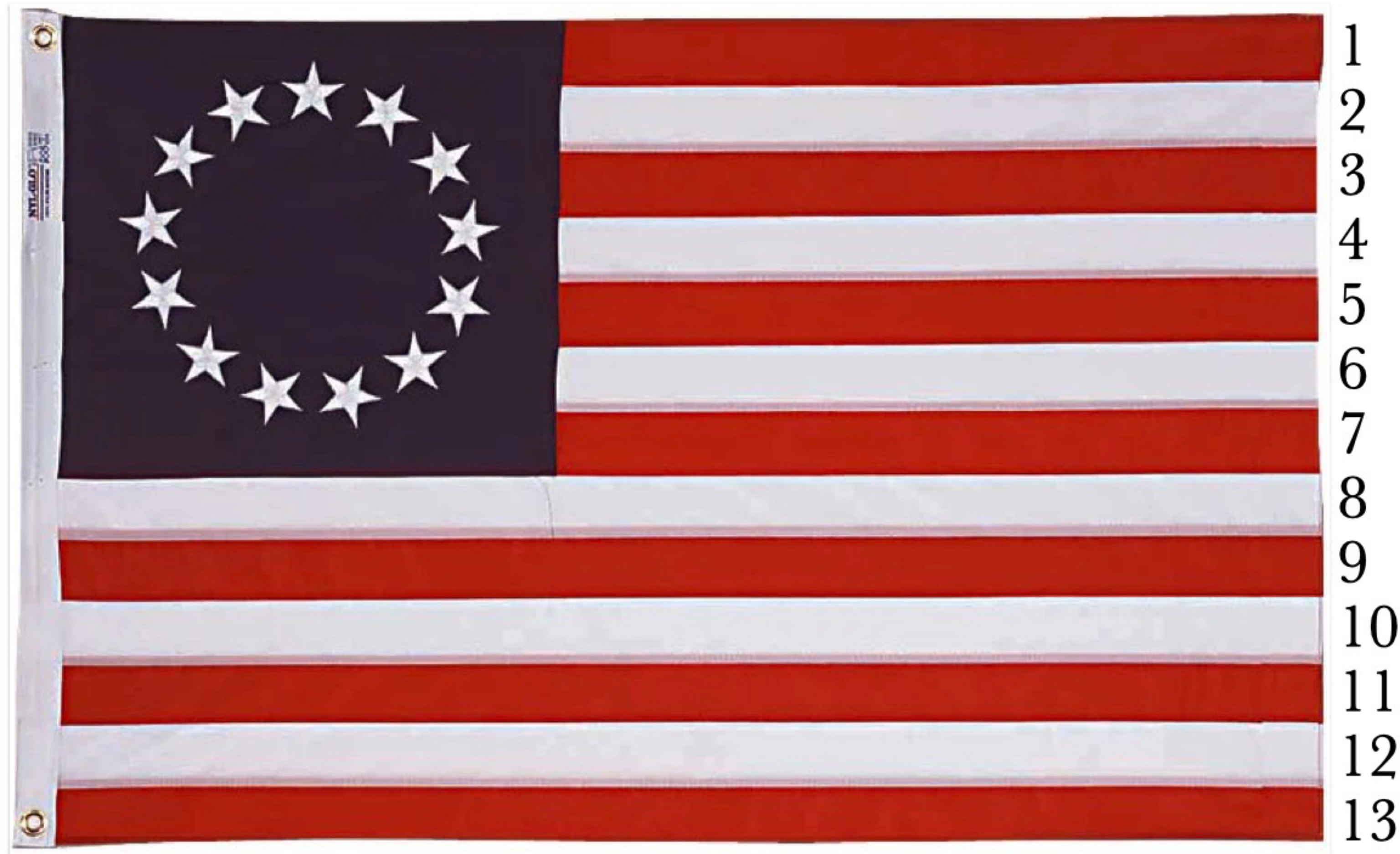


Color

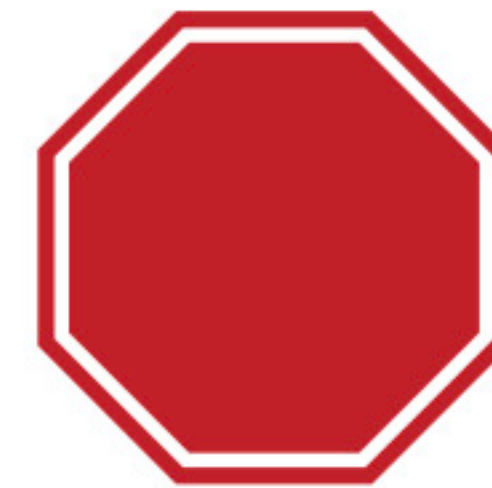
Using your white crayon,
color 13 stars on the
flag sheet. Then color in
the blue background
around those stars.



The stripes also represent the 13 colonies.
There are 7 red and 6 white stripes. Let's count them.



$$7 + 6 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$



Using your red and white crayons, color the 13 stripes.

What color goes in the first and last stripes?

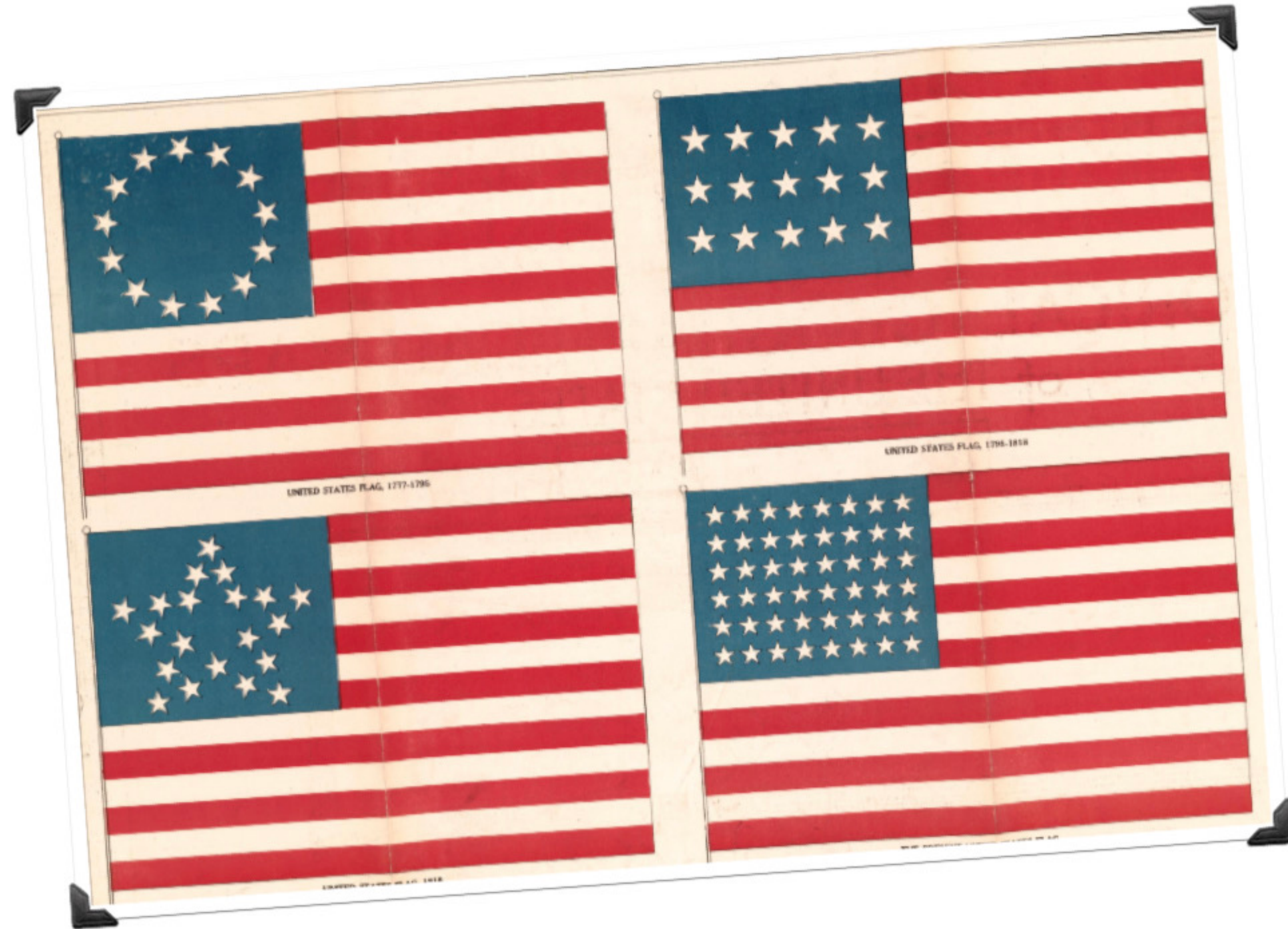
Since then, there have been 27 *official* American flags!

WHY so many?

Every time a new state is added to our country, another star must be added.

The 13 stripes must stay the same, but the arrangement of the stars can change.

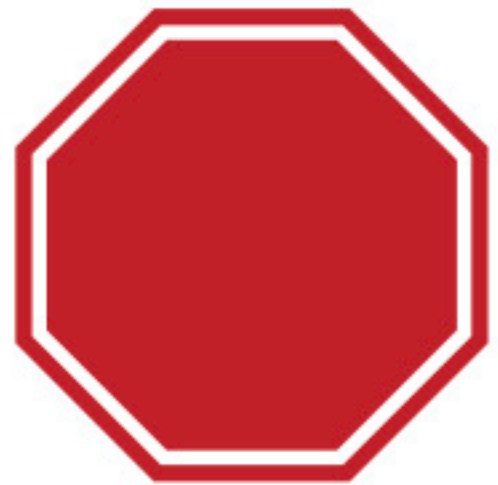
There have also been several more *non-official* commemorative flags created to celebrate different events.



Let's look at some of America's flags.
By 1820, the U.S. had added ten more states.

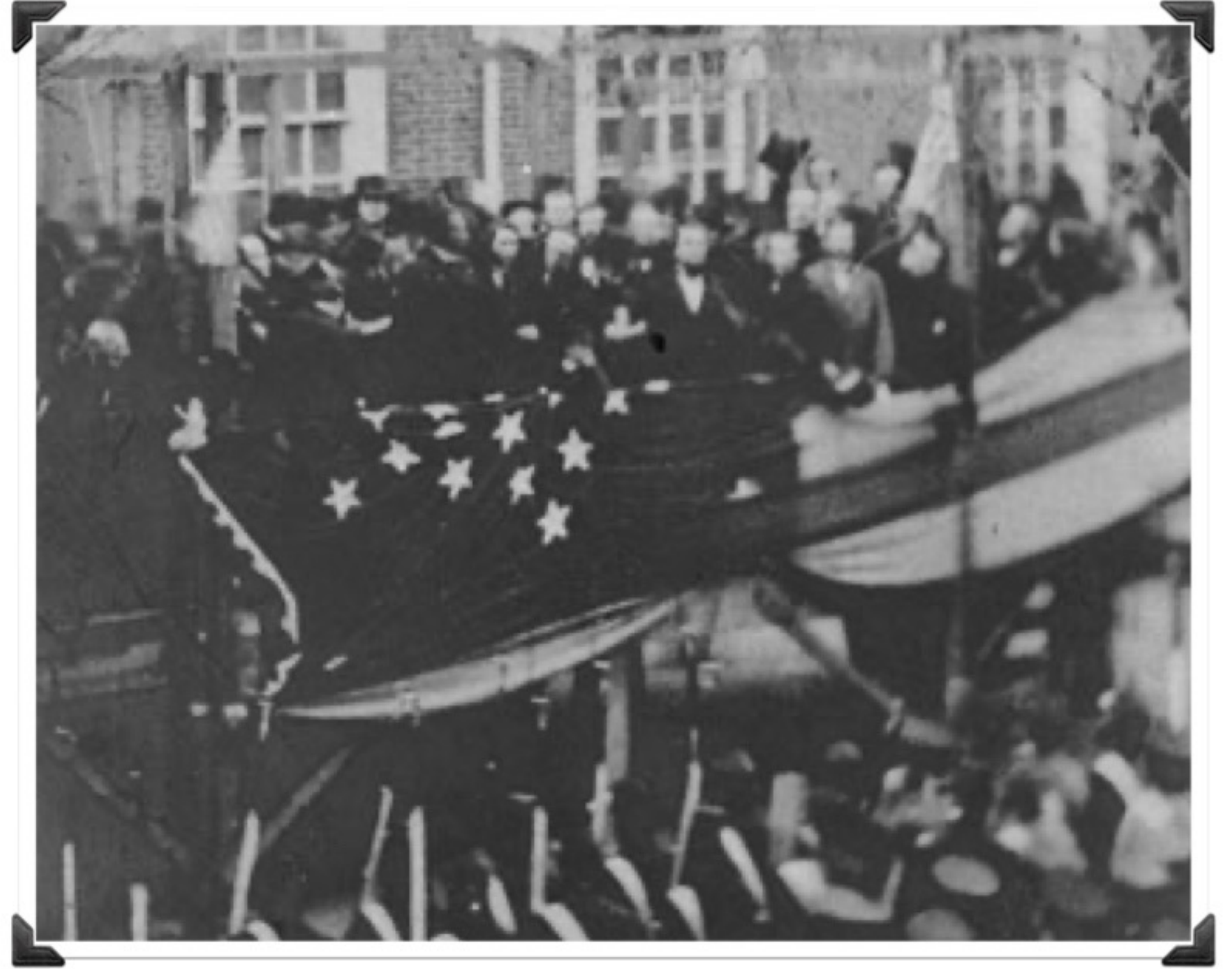
So, how many stars should be
on this 1820 flag?

$$13 + 10 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$



Color in **10** more stars on the flag color sheet.
Then, use a blue crayon to color in the background around those stars.

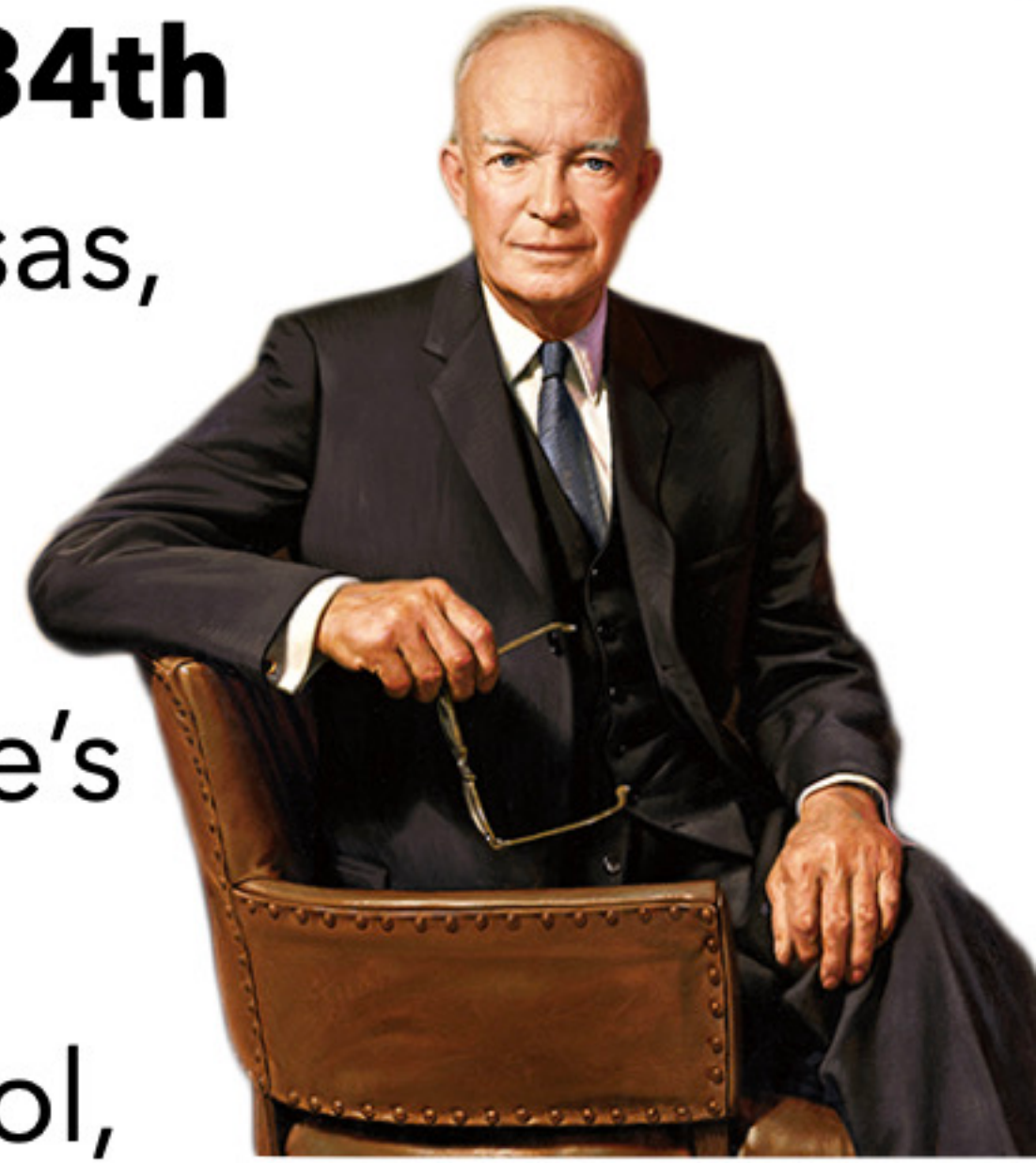
The flag below was created in 1861, when Kansas was added as the 34th state. How many stars should it have?



Abraham Lincoln was our President in 1861, the year Kansas was added as a state. Above is a photo of him preparing to lift this new flag.

Fun Facts

- President Dwight D. Eisenhower ("Ike") was the **34th** President of the U.S. and was from Abilene, Kansas, the **34th** State!
- Ike idolized President Abraham Lincoln for his leadership and character. His grandparents must have felt the same, because Ike's uncle was named Abraham Lincoln Eisenhower!
- Also, Ike's boyhood home was next door to his elementary school, which was named ... Abraham Lincoln Elementary!



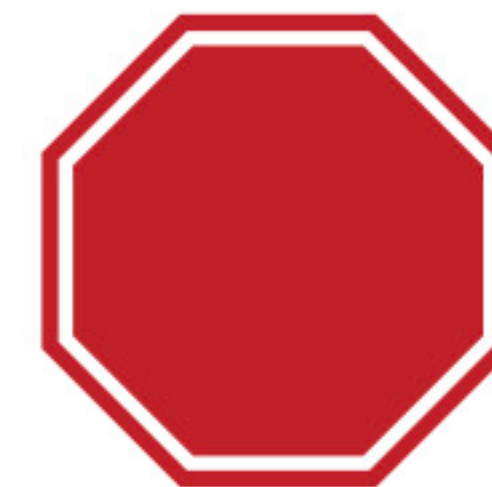
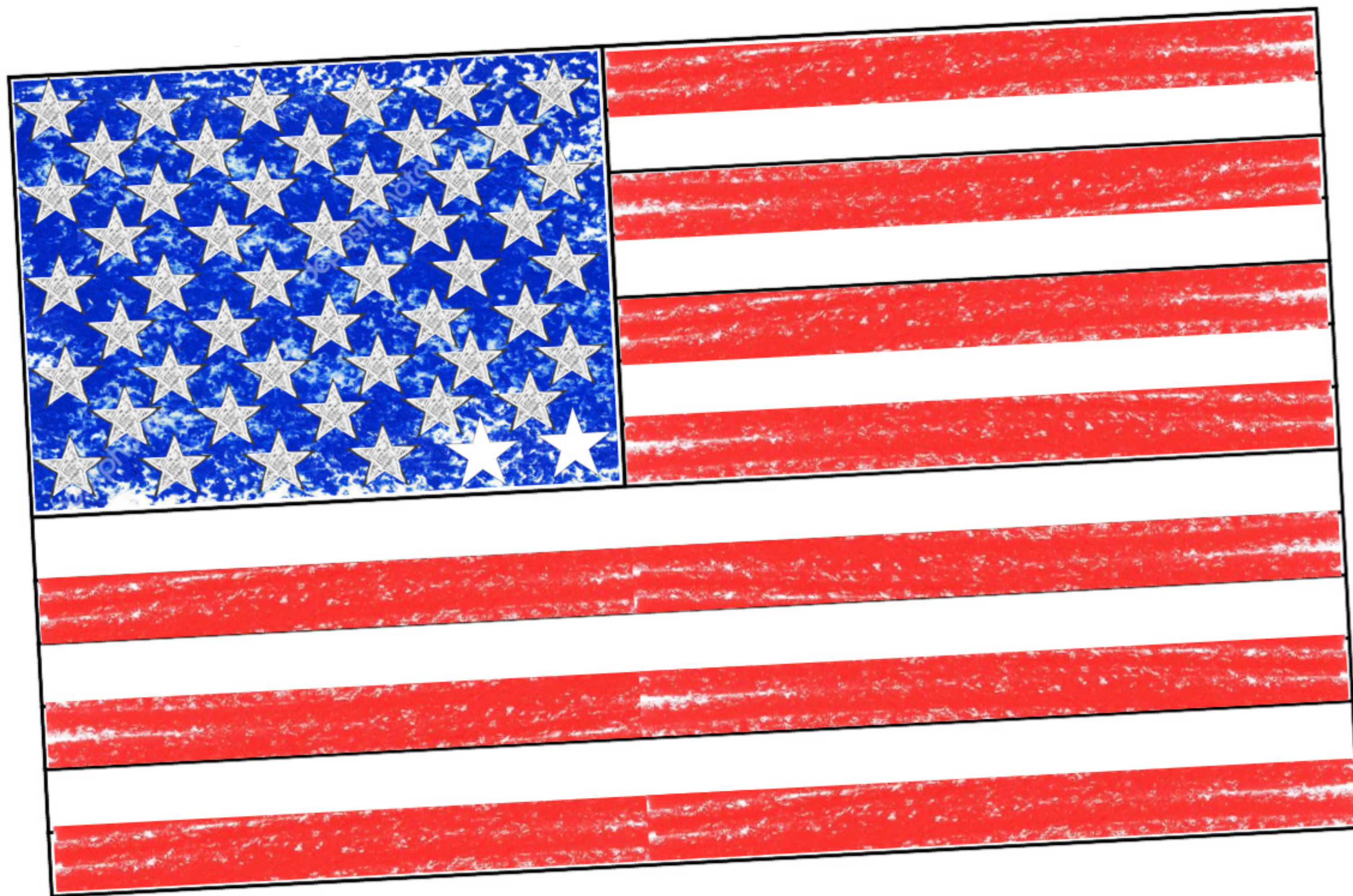
Today, there are schools named after Dwight D. Eisenhower all over the country.



Ike painted as a hobby during his adult years. He made this portrait of Abraham Lincoln.



In 1912, we added New Mexico and Arizona to our country, bringing the total states to **48**.



*Color in all of your flag
except two stars.*

How many stars
are now colored in?



Do you recognize this man from earlier?

This is President Dwight D. _____.
He was our 34th President of the United States (from the ____th state). His nickname was Ike.

President Eisenhower had a very important role in the flag we fly today. Any guesses what that might have been?



Hint: When Ike took office in 1953, there were still 48 states.

In 1959, while Ike was President, he added Hawaii and Alaska as the 49th and 50th states in our country.

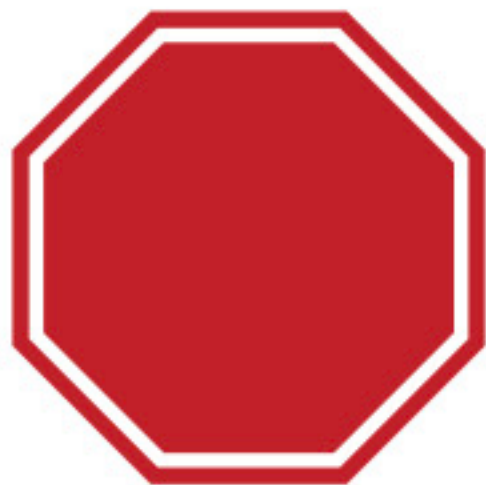
So, how many stars needed to be added to our flag?



This is a 48-star American flag.

48

+



Color the last two stars on the flag as well as the blue background. Then, count the number of stars of the flag.

How many stars do we have on the flag we fly today?



50

WHY?

A close-up, high-resolution photograph of the American flag, specifically focusing on the blue canton with its 50 white stars. The flag is draped and folded, creating deep shadows and bright highlights that emphasize its texture. The stars are arranged in a grid-like pattern, though some are partially obscured by the folds. The colors are vibrant, with a deep blue, bright white, and a rich red visible in the stripes.

**Today our flag has 50 stars –
one star for each of the 50 states.**

It is a symbol of our country and its ideals of
freedom and **democracy.**

We salute the flag and the
United States of America.



What do we do during
the Pledge of Allegiance
to show our respect?

Let's practice.

Rules of the Flag

*Our flag is a symbol of our country,
so to show respect, we follow
rules and treat it well.*

- We do not write on it.
- We do not use it as a costume or as clothing.
- We do not let it hit the ground or let it get dirty.
- We stand when it is being presented.

Build your own American Flag!

1. Color each shape using red, white, and blue.

2. Cut along the outlines carefully

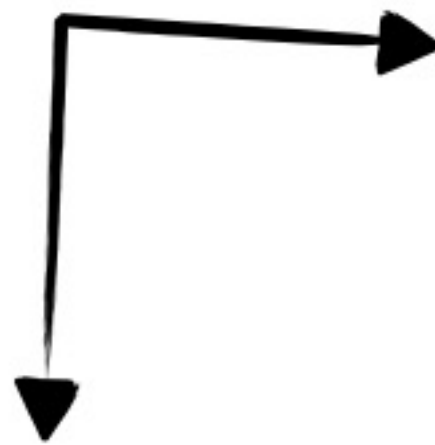
3. Glue the pieces in the correct order on the page to build your own American flag.



Holding the flag that you made,
march or dance to the song
"Grand Old Flag."



Song links



https://youtu.be/sO12beCe_ac?si=nbgPleO6qZYZ4dpu



"You're a Grand Old Flag"

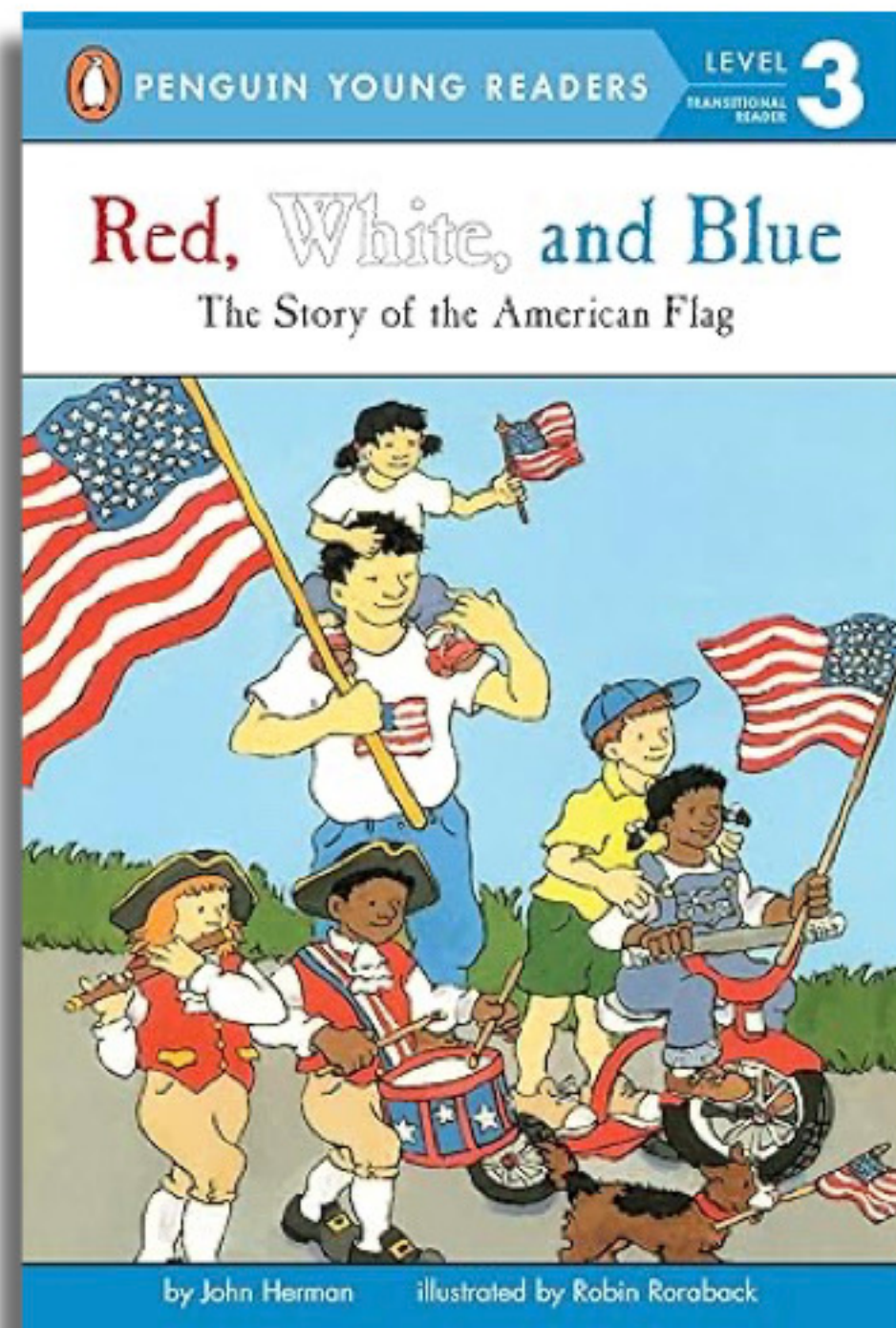
By George M. Cohan



**You're a grand old flag,
You're a high flying flag
And forever in peace may you wave.
You're the emblem of
The land I love.
The home of the free and the brave.
Ev'ry heart beats true
'neath the Red, White and Blue,
Where there's never a boast or brag.
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
Keep your eye on the grand old flag.**

Read, watch, or listen to:

Red, White & Blue: The Story of The American Flag
by John Herman



Story Links

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9aubKtYkvc>

Find lots more FREE educational resources at [IKEducation.com](https://www.IKEducation.com)

