

"Old Glory"

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Riverlawn Elementary, Pulaski, VA

Grade Levels: K-3

Time Allotment: 1 ½ - 2 ½ hrs or 2 class periods

Overview: Through hands-on activities and video streaming, students will learn about the American flag and the important role that it has played in our country's past and in the present.

Subject Matter: Social Studies

Learning Objectives:

The students will be able to:

- Name places the flag is displayed.
- Tell when the first American flag appeared.
- Recognize the importance of the Revolutionary War.
- Tell what the stars and stripes stand for.
- Discuss who made the first flag.
- Discuss why the American flag is called "Old Glory".
- Discuss the importance of displaying the flag during national holidays.
- Tell when the flag is displayed at half-mast.

Standards:

This lesson addresses Virginia's Introduction to History and Social Science Standards of Learning available at: <http://www.pen.k12.va.us>.

- K.1 The student will recognize that history describes events and people of other times and places by identifying examples of past events in legends, stories, and historical accounts of Pocahontas, George Washington, Betsy Ross, and Abraham Lincoln.
- 1.11 The student will recognize the symbols and traditional practices that honor and foster patriotism in the United States by
- a) identifying the American flag, bald eagle, Washington Monument, and Statue of Liberty.
- 2.10 The student will explain the responsibilities of a good citizen, with emphasis on respecting and protecting the rights and property of others.

- 2.12 The student will understand that the United States is a land of people who have diverse ethnic origins, customs, and traditions, who make contributions to their communities, and who are united as Americans by common principles.
- 3.12 The student will recognize that Americans are a people of diverse ethnic origins, customs, and traditions, who are united by the basic principles of a republican form of government and respect for individual rights and freedoms.

Media Components:

Streaming Video: United Streaming - www.unitedstreaming.com

- *Old Glory*, Use the following clips: “Old Glory: The American Flag”, “The History of the American Flag”, “Why is the American Flag Called ‘Old Glory?’” and “Celebrating the American Flag: Holidays and Traditions”.

Internet Connection:

- Web Site: <http://www.usflag.org/foldflag.html>

Materials:

- For the Introductory Activity you will need: a full sized American flag or a suitable substitute, and the directions for folding an American Flag found at <http://www.usflag.org/foldflag.html>.
- For the Learning Activity, have all videos downloaded and cued so that there is very little downtime between the Introductory Activity and the Learning Activity.
- For the Culminating Activity, you will need a copy of the Flag Culminating Activity (attached), tag board, red and white yarn, and crayons.

Preparations for Teacher:

- The teacher should download from United Streaming, the needed clips of the videos, “Old Glory: The American Flag”, “The History of the American Flag”, “Why is the American Flag Called ‘Old Glory?’” and “Celebrating the American Flag: Holidays and Traditions” onto the desktop of a computer or burn them on a disk. By hooking up an LCD projector or other presentation device the teacher may show this clip in full screen on a television or on a pull-down screen.
- For the Introductory Activity, the teacher will need a full sized American flag or a suitable substitute. A large piece of butcher paper or bulletin board paper with the flag drawn on it can be used as a substitute. The teacher will also need to visit the web site <http://www.usflag.org/foldflag.html> for directions on how to fold a flag.
- For the Culminating Activity, the teacher should have a copy of the attached flag activity PDF on tag board for each student. The teacher should also have 4 six

inch pieces of red yarn and 3 eleven inch pieces of red yarn for each student as well as 3 six inch pieces of white yarn and 3 eleven inch pieces of white yarn. The teacher could also have the holes on each flag punched ahead of time for the students to save time or for safety reasons.

- The teacher should review the concept of *symbols* with students prior to teaching this lesson.
- When using video segments, always provide students with a **FOCUS FOR MEDIA INTERACTION**. This is a specific task to complete and/or information to identify during or after the viewing of the intended video segments.

Introductory Activity:

Step 1. **Say:** “Who can tell me what we recite each morning during the announcements?” Wait for a correct student response of “The Pledge of Allegiance”. Draw students’ attention to the flag in the classroom and **say:** “There is a proper way to fold the American flag. We don’t fold a flag like you fold a towel. Has anyone ever seen a properly folded American Flag? What shape is it?” Wait for student responses of *triangle*. **Say:** “The American Flag is folded in a triangle shape to represent the tri-cornered hats worn by colonial soldiers in the Revolutionary War. We will see some of those hats later on.”

Step 2. **Say:** “We are going to learn the proper way to fold the American Flag.” At this point, the teacher should lead the students in following the steps for folding an American flag printed from the website <http://www.usflag.org/foldflag.html> using a full-sized American flag or a suitable substitute. Another option would be for the teacher to pull up the website and directly use the steps from the website to lead the class. Lead the class in folding the flag as many times as you would like.

Step 3. **Say:** “We have learned the process for folding an American flag, now let’s learn some more interesting facts about the flag.”

Learning Activities:

Old Glory: The American Flag

Step 1. **Say:** “Students, today I would like for you to watch a video clip entitled ‘Old Glory: The American Flag’.” Write the words *American Flag* on the board. Provide students with a **FOCUS FOR MEDIA INTERACTION** by telling them to listen and watch for different places that we might see the American flag displayed. **Start** “Old Glory: The American Flag”, a United Streaming video. At the end of the (00:45) clip, ask students to tell you where we see the American Flag displayed (in front of homes, offices, downtown areas, shirts, ribbons, buttons, in classrooms, and in front of schools). In addition to the answers given in the video, talk about additional places the American flag can be found.

The History of the American Flag

Step 2. **Say:** “Now I would like for you to watch another video clip titled ‘The History of the American Flag’.” Provide students with a **FOCUS FOR MEDIA INTERACTION** by telling them to listen for when the American flag first appeared. **Start**, “The History of the American Flag”, a United Streaming video. **Pause** the video after the soldiers fire their weapons (00:25). **Say:** “When did the American flag first appear?” (In 1777 during the Revolutionary War). After the students answer the question, **Rewind** the video and point out the tri-cornered hats that the soldiers are wearing. **Say:** “Does anyone know what the Revolutionary War was?” (It was the war we fought against England to gain our independence). At this point, use a world map to point out England and explain that America was once part of England. **Say:** “We wanted to be our own country so we fought England. After a long hard war, we finally beat England and won our independence.” Provide students with a **FOCUS FOR MEDIA INTERACTION** by telling them to listen for what the 13 stars and stripes stood for. **Start** the video again and pause it when the 13 colonies appear on the map (00:41). **Ask:** “What were the 13 stars and stripes symbols for?” (The 13 original colonies) Perhaps take time to explain the word *symbol*. After students’ responses, explain to the students that colonies are similar to states. **Say:** “Does anyone think they know who made the first American Flag?” After responses, provide students with a **FOCUS FOR MEDIA INTERACTION** by telling them to listen for who made the first flag. **Start** the video again and stop it when the animation of the flag appears (2:04). **Ask:** “So, does anyone know for certain who made the first flag? Who do most people think made it? What other person has been sometimes credited with making the first flag?” (some say Betsy Ross or Francis Hopkinson, but nobody really knows). Have a short discussion on student responses re-emphasizing the fact that most people thought Betsy Ross made the first flag, but nobody really knows who made it.

Why is the American Flag Called “Old Glory?”

Step 3. Provide students with a **FOCUS FOR MEDIA INTERACTION**. **Say:** “I would like for you to watch a third video clip titled “Why is the American Flag called ‘Old Glory?’” I want you to watch this clip and listen for how the American flag got its nickname of “Old Glory”. **Start** the video and watch it until the end (1:04). Ask for student responses about how the flag got the nickname “Old Glory” (Captain William Driver remarked at how glorious the flag was and decided that he would call it “Old Glory”). **Rewind** the video to watch again if necessary.

Celebrating the American Flag: Holidays and Traditions

Step 4. Provide students with a **FOCUS FOR MEDIA INTERACTION**. **Say:** “I would like for you to watch the final video clip, ‘Celebrating the American Flag: Holidays and Traditions’. I want you to listen for reasons why ‘Old Glory’ is an important part of our

national holidays.” **Start** the video and watch it until the sunset (00:38). **Pause** the video and ask for student responses to the question of why the flag is an important part of our national holidays (it reminds us of our country’s history, its blessings, its varied people, and its great beauty). Provide students with a **FOCUS FOR MEDIA INTERACTION** by telling them to listen for when the American Flag is flown at half mast **Start** the video and watch it until the end (2:09). After the video clip, **ask**, “When is the flag flown at half mast?” (when an important person dies). Discuss answers and talk about appropriate flag traditions such as never letting it touch the ground and only flying the flag during good weather.

Culminating Activity:

For the culminating activity, the students will be making their own American Flag. For this activity, the teacher will need the items listed for the Culminating Activity in the Teacher Preparation section. The students will cut out the American flag along the outside border. Each student will lace the pieces of red yarn through the holes that are marked with an *R*, taping or gluing the end to the backside of the flag. The 6 inch pieces are for the short red stripes and the 11 inch pieces are for the long red stripes. The students will then do the same with the white pieces of yarn. The teacher can elect to only do red yarn to save time because the paper could represent the white stripes. Finally the students will color the blue section of the flag making sure not to color the stars. For a final review, the teacher can ask the students about how many red stripes there are, how many white stripes, and how many total stripes there are. The teacher can also ask about how many stars there are and what each star represents.

Cross-Curricular Extensions:

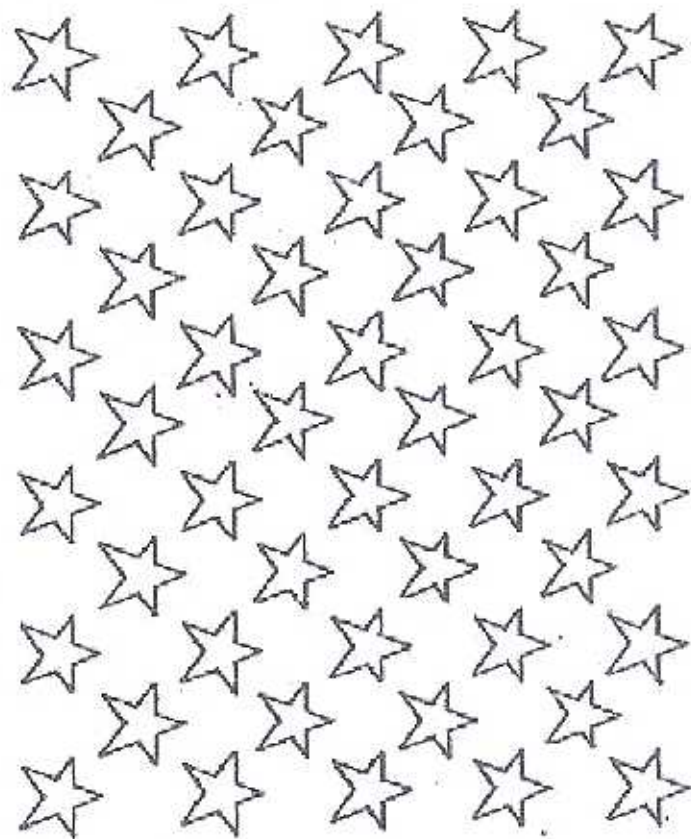
- **Reading:**
Visit your school library for books about the American Flag and patriotic symbols.
- **Writing:**
Rewrite the “Pledge of Allegiance” using words the students know. Adapt the lesson plan found at the following link as needed.
<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/SSPledgeAllegiance5.htm>
- **Music/Technology:**
Visit the website <http://wilstar.com/holidays/july4.htm> to listen and/or sing along to patriotic songs.
- **Art:**
Make a class flag on a twin size sheet using red and blue paint.

Community Connections:

Ask a local VFW group to come in to the class and demonstrate the flag folding procedure. The Boy Scouts might even be a resource to use to talk about respecting the flag or proper care of it.

Student Materials:

- Red and white yarn pieces
- Copy of the American Flag Culminating Activity on tag board for each student
- Crayons



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