

Flags of America

This is a program which will tell you briefly a history of our beloved flag and will show you how we came to have the flag we have today. Ancient flags bore the symbols of the moon, the sun, the stars, and other emblems that helped the people speak of their worship or their feelings. It may have been in Egypt, or at some earlier place, when men first began to want to carry a standard or banner. It may have been that a feeling of protection came to men when they went forth to war if the symbol of their worship went along with them. No one knows. But out of their primitive thinking we have Old Glory which, to us, means more than mere words can tell.

United Kingdom Flag.

The first American flag, under which the English colonies organized, was the British flag and this remained the official flag of America for more than 100 years. For centuries the British flag had the red cross of St. George on a white field. The flag of Scotland was the white cross of St. Andrew on a blue field. When England and Scotland became one nation; the two crosses were blended together. When we withdrew from England we gave up the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew.

Bunker Hill Flag.

On June 17, 1775 the Battle of Bunker Hill took place. It is one of the most important colonial victories in the U S War for Independence. The Flag of Bunker Hill was displayed in June of 1775. This flag has a red cross on a white field and a pine tree set above one arm of the cross. The rest of the flag is bright blue, later suggesting our own starry blue field in Old Glory.

Rattlesnake Flag.

The Marines used the Rattlesnake Flag. Congress authorized this group of fighting men, November 19, 1775. This type of flag had three designs, but they all meant the same. Each carried a coiled rattlesnake and the motto was “Don’t tread on me.” This design was also used on the drums of the Marines when they marched the streets of Philadelphia and recruited men for the Revolutionary War. No use to explain this flag – it carries its own message.

Betsy Ross Old Glory 1777.

On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress ordered a flag, which we call the Stars and Stripes. It was then we put the stars on our flag as we have it today, except that there were only thirteen stars then. The words written into the records are these:

“Resolved that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes alternately red and white, that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation.”

The first army flag had the stars arranged in a circle based on the idea that no colony should take precedence over the other.

Please join in singing our National Anthem.

Star Spangled Banner Old Glory 1794

Following an act of Congress, on January 13, 1794, our flag held 15 stars and 15 stripes. The same design was followed as the one used during the Revolution, but the stripes were increased by two, as were the stars. This was done because two new states had been admitted into the Union; Vermont in 1791 and Kentucky in 1792. This type of flag was used in many stirring events of the Nation and was the inspiration of "The Star Spangled Banner," written by Francis Scott Key.

Commodore Perry, Battle of Lake Erie Flag, 1813

On September 10th, 1813, at the Battle of Lake Erie, Oliver Hazard Perry, who was in command of the fleet, used a flag, which he had ordered made before the engagement took place. This flag bore the famous words uttered earlier by Captain James Lawrence. The words were, “Don’t Give Up the Ship.”

With these words to inspire the men, and the waving blue banner above their heads, Perry was able to send his famous message to General William Henry Harrison “We have met the enemy and they are ours.” All gave honor to the inspiring symbol, which helped them gain the victory.

Old Glory 1818.

Fearing that the addition of each new state might mean a new stripe and star. And knowing that such a plan would make a flag out of size and proportion as the years went by, Congress passed a law in 1818, on April 4th. It returned our flag to its original design of thirteen stripes and providing for a new star for each additional state that came into the union. This is the flag we see today.

We might bring to your attention to many more flags that have played a great part in making our great nation famous. We could turn back the pages of history and tell you of the days of the Mexican War when Old Glory waved above fighting men who brought into existence the great Western Empire. Or, we might tell you of this lovely flag which went into battle and waved above brave men when in the hard days of the Civil War. Brother fought against brother and our nation was in great peril of division. Or, we might talk about the days of the Spanish-American War when our beloved banner waved in Manila Bay and an oppressed people were given freedom from Spanish rule.

Please join in singing the songs of our armed forces.

Marines, Navy, Army, Air Force.

We might think of World War I where Old Glory was a sign of freedom upon the battle fields of Europe. In World War II, where again this honored flag went to the rescue of what appeared to be a vanquished world in Europe, in Asia, and was raised at Iwo Jima on Mt. Suribachi, and again, in Korea.

Old Glory stood by the men and women in Viet Nam. Was trampled and burned during protests. But it rose again to show a United Nation. It was flown high in the Gulf War. Now again it is flying as we fight against Terrorism.

To each of us, Old Glory has a meaning, a meaning full of patriotism and love.

Please join in singing It's a Grand Old Flag

Old Glory has a different meaning, now

Her stripes fresh dyed in ardent hero's blood
That gushed for freedom in a crimson flood,
Stir men, in faith, to keep a sacred vow-
Old Glory has a different meaning, now.

When shot and shell around her flew like hail:
When death shrieked on the wind and men grew pale,
Seeing their stricken comrades fall and die.
Yea, brave souls dared to lift her colors high,
And nameless shrines hold precious clay, because
Freedom, to them, a holy birthright was.

Majestically she rides the breeze, and waves
Her regal beauty over countless graves.
Symbol of universal brotherhood,
Ordained of God, by all men understood,
Flag of free people, a proud nation, we
Humbly give thanks today, that we are free.
Joining our hearts and hands, the great, the small,
Old Glory has new meaning for us all.

Please join in singing God Bless America.

**Thank you for letting the Triwaukeee Conductress and
Associate Conductresses present this program.**

Flags of America

This is a program which will tell you briefly a history of our beloved flag and will show you how we came to have the flag we have today. Ancient flags bore the symbols of the moon, the sun, the stars, and other emblems that helped the people speak of their worship or their feelings. It may have been in Egypt, or at some earlier place, when men first began to want to carry a standard or banner. It may have been that a feeling of protection came to men when they went forth to war if the symbol of their worship went along with them. No one knows. But out of their primitive thinking we have Old Glory which, to us, means more than mere words can tell.

United Kingdom Flag.

The first American flag, under which the English colonies organized, was the British flag and this remained the official flag of America for more than 100 years. For centuries the British flag had the red cross of St. George on a white field. The flag of Scotland was the white cross of St. Andrew on a blue field. When England and Scotland became one nation; the two crosses were blended together. When we withdrew from England we gave up the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew.

Bunker Hill Flag.

On June 17, 1775 the Battle of Bunker Hill took place. It is one of the most important colonial victories in the U S War for Independence. The Flag of Bunker Hill was displayed in June of 1775. This flag has a red cross on a white field and a pine tree set above one arm of the cross. The rest of the flag is bright blue, later suggesting our own starry blue field in Old Glory.

Rattlesnake Flag.

The Marines used the Rattlesnake Flag. Congress authorized this group of fighting men, November 19, 1775. This type of flag had three designs, but they all meant the same. Each carried a coiled rattlesnake and the motto was "Don't tread on me." This design was also used on the drums of the Marines when they marched the streets of Philadelphia and recruited men for the Revolutionary War. No use to explain this flag – it carries its own message.

Betsy Ross Old Glory 1777.

On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress ordered a flag, which we call the Stars and Stripes. It was then we put the stars on our flag as we have it today, except that there were only thirteen stars then. The words written into the records are these:

"Resolved that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes alternately red and white, that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

The first army flag had the stars arranged in a circle based on the idea that no colony should take precedence over the other.

Please join in singing our National Anthem.

Star Spangled Banner Old Glory 1794

Following an act of Congress, on January 13, 1794, our flag held 15 stars and 15 stripes. The same design was followed as the one used during the Revolution, but the stripes were increased by two, as were the stars. This was done because two new states had been admitted into the Union; Vermont in 1791 and Kentucky in 1792. This type of flag was used in many stirring events of the Nation and was the inspiration of "The Star Spangled Banner," written by Francis Scott Key.

Commodore Perry, Battle of Lake Erie Flag, 1813

On September 10th, 1813, at the Battle of Lake Erie, Oliver Hazard Perry, who was in command of the fleet, used a flag, which he had ordered made before the engagement took place. This flag bore the famous words uttered earlier by Captain James Lawrence. The words were, "Don't Give Up the Ship."

With these words to inspire the men, and the waving blue banner above their heads, Perry was able to send his famous message to General William Henry Harrison "We have met the enemy and they are ours." All gave honor to the inspiring symbol, which helped them gain the victory.

Old Glory 1818.

Fearing that the addition of each new state might mean a new stripe and star. And knowing that such a plan would make a flag out of size and proportion as the years went by, Congress passed a law in 1818, on April 4th. It returned our flag to its original design of thirteen stripes and providing for a new star for each additional state that came into the union. This is the flag we see today.

We might bring to your attention to many more flags that have played a great part in making our great nation famous. We could turn back the pages of history and tell you of the days of the Mexican War when Old Glory waved above fighting men who brought into existence the great Western Empire. Or, we might tell you of this lovely flag which went into battle and waved above brave men when in the hard days of the Civil War. Brother fought against brother and our nation was in great peril of division. Or, we might talk about the days of the Spanish-American War when our beloved banner waved in Manila Bay and an oppressed people were given freedom from Spanish rule.

Please join in singing the songs of our armed forces.

Marines, Navy, Army, Air Force.

We might think of World War I where Old Glory was a sign of freedom upon the battle fields of Europe. In World War II, where again this honored flag went to the rescue of what appeared to be a vanquished world in Europe, in Asia, and was raised at Iwo Jima on Mt. Suribachi, and again, in Korea.

Old Glory stood by the men and women in Viet Nam. Was trampled and burned during protests. But it rose again to show a United Nation. It was flown high in the Gulf War. Now again it is flying as we fight against Terrorism.

To each of us, Old Glory has a meaning, a meaning full of patriotism and love.

Please join in singing It's a Grand Old Flag

Old Glory has a different meaning, now

Her stripes fresh dyed in ardent hero's blood
That gushed for freedom in a crimson flood,
Stir men, in faith, to keep a sacred vow-
Old Glory has a different meaning, now.

When shot and shell around her flew like hail:
When death shrieked on the wind and men grew pale,
Seeing their stricken comrades fall and die.
Yea, brave souls dared to lift her colors high,
And nameless shrines hold precious clay, because
Freedom, to them, a holy birthright was.

Majestically she rides the breeze, and waves
Her regal beauty over countless graves.
Symbol of universal brotherhood,
Ordained of God, by all men understood,
Flag of free people, a proud nation, we
Humbly give thanks today, that we are free.
Joining our hearts and hands, the great, the small,
Old Glory has new meaning for us all.

Please join in singing God Bless America.

Thank you for letting the Triwaukeee Conductress and Associate Conductresses present this program.