

Lesson

4

Big Idea

Our nation's symbols help citizens express their pride in their country.

Vocabulary

patriotic symbol
patriotism
Pledge of Allegiance
anthem

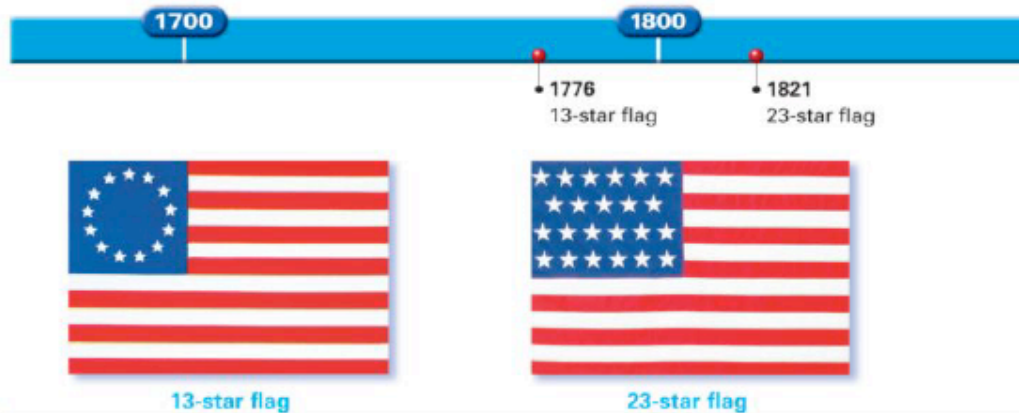
Symbols of National Pride

There are many kinds of flags. Some stand for cities or states. Others stand for businesses or teams. Of all the kinds of flags, a nation's is the most important. It is a **patriotic symbol** that stands for the ideas the people believe in, such as freedom. The feeling of pride that citizens have for their country is called **patriotism**.

Our Country's Flag

The design of the flag of the United States has changed over time. On early United States flags, the number of both stars and stripes showed the number of states in the nation.

Time Line of Our Country's Flags



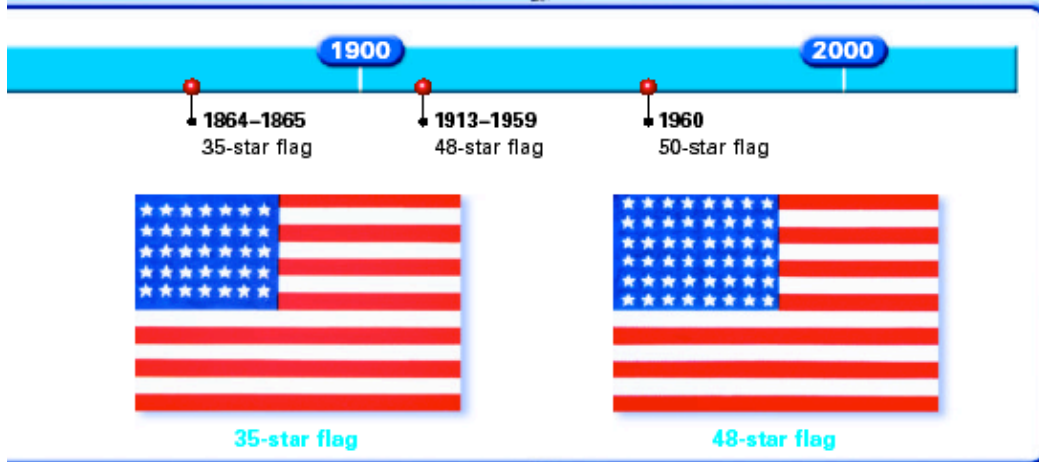
The country grew, and soon there were too many states to show as stripes. Congress decided that only a star should be added to the flag when a new state joined the United States. The number of stripes stayed at 13, to stand for the first 13 states.

Congress did not say how the stars should be grouped, so there were different designs.

In 1912 the President ordered that the stars should always be grouped in straight rows. The latest change to the nation's flag was in 1960. In that year the fiftieth star was added to stand for the state of Hawaii.

Review What do the stars on the American flag stand for?

The present United States flag has 50 stars.





A Closer Look Flag Manners

There are rules about how the United States flag should be respected and displayed.

🔍 How should you salute the flag when you are wearing a hat?

SALUTING THE FLAG



- 1 Stand and look at the flag. Place your right hand, open, over your heart.



- 2 If you have a hat on, remove it and hold it at your left shoulder with the hand that is over your heart.

DISPLAYING THE FLAG



- 3 Fly the flag of the United States above any other flag on the same pole. Raise the United States flag first, and lower it last.



- 4 Flying the flag at half-mast is a sign of mourning, or sorrow for a death. Raise the flag to the top of the pole, and then lower it halfway. At night, raise it to the top again before lowering it.

The Pledge of Allegiance

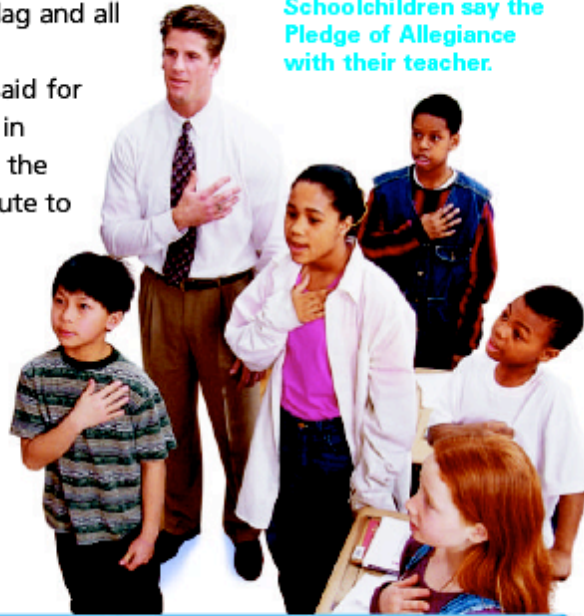
Citizens show their respect for the flag and what it stands for by saying the **Pledge of Allegiance**. To pledge allegiance is to promise to be true. When you pledge allegiance to the flag, you are promising to be true to the flag and all that it stands for.


The Pledge of Allegiance was said for the first time in 1892 by children in public schools. Students all across the United States now join in this salute to the flag every school day.

Review What does it mean to pledge allegiance to the flag?

 **GENERALIZE**

Schoolchildren say the Pledge of Allegiance with their teacher.





The Pledge of Allegiance	
<p>"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."</p>	<p><i>I promise to be true to the flag of my country and to the nation it stands for, one country led by God, which cannot be divided, with freedom and fairness for everyone.</i></p>



This painting shows the bombing of Fort Mifflin.

Our National Anthem



Francis Scott Key

When many people look at the flag, they think of the freedom for which it stands. They also think about the people who fought and died in wars to protect the nation's freedom. "The Star-Spangled Banner" is our nation's **anthem**, or song of patriotism. It was written because of the flag.

Francis Scott Key was a lawyer from Washington, D.C. He watched from a ship as the British attacked Fort Mifflin, in Baltimore, Maryland, during the War of 1812. The battle, which had started during the day, went on into the night. Key had to wait through the hours of darkness to learn which side had won.

As the sun rose the next morning, Key could see the American flag still flying above the fort. He knew then that the United States had won. His feeling of patriotism was so strong that he wrote a poem. That poem became the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Most flags are flown only in the daytime. Over Fort McHenry and over the grave of Francis Scott Key, the nation's flag flies day and night.

Review What event led to Key's writing the poem that became the national anthem?



• HERITAGE •

The Liberty Bell

The Liberty Bell cracked the first time it was rung in 1753. A new bell was made and it, too, cracked! Even though it no longer rings, the bell is still a symbol for freedom. It is on display near Independence

Square in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

LESSON 4

Review



Generalize Write a paragraph telling why you think people create flags, songs, and other patriotic symbols.

- 1 Big Idea** What are some of the ways people can express pride in their country?
- 2 Vocabulary** Give one example of a **patriotic symbol**, and tell why it makes citizens feel proud.

3

Your Community Share with the class a photograph or object that shows your pride in your town or community.



Performance—Create a Flag Use construction paper to create a flag for your classroom, club, or sports team. Use colors and symbols that would help someone new learn about your group. Then present and explain your flag to the class.

EXAMINE

Primary Sources

Patriotic Symbols



The powerful bald eagle is the national bird of the United States and is used on many objects and documents. This early drawing of the Great Seal was the model for the Great Seal used today. The Great Seal is an important symbol to our country. It is used on government papers and on government buildings in the nation's capital.



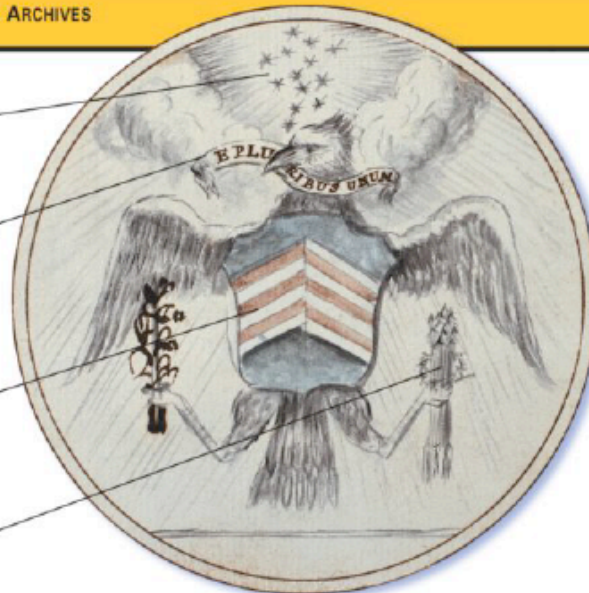
FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The stars represent the thirteen colonies.

E Pluribus Unum is a motto for the United States that means "out of many, one."

The red, white, and blue colors used in the shield stand for freedom and strength.

Arrows, which are a symbol for strength



On June 20, 1782, Congress approved this drawing by Charles Thomson, which became the model for the Great Seal.

A mold for the Great Seal of the United States used today



Analyze the Primary Source

- 1 Why do you think the eagle in each seal is wearing a shield?
- 2 What objects are being held by the eagles in all three seals?
- 3 Why do you think the eagle is shown with its wings spread apart?

Olive branch, which is a symbol for peace

Treaty Seal from 1825

The Great Seal and the Treaty Seal both have symbols that came from the drawing on page 128.

Activity

Create a Classroom Seal With your classmates, make a list of objects that stand for, or symbolize, your class. Then design a seal for your class using one of the objects in your design. Share your seal with other classes.

Research



Visit The Learning Site at www.harcourtschool.com to research other primary sources.