



## A Lesson on The First Flag by Emily Bertrand

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 45 minutes

**Lesson Keywords:** Flag, history, Betsy Ross, Revolutionary War, United States.

**Lesson Description:** Teaches students about the first flag. Questions them about the importance. Builds on vocabulary.

### Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.1: Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1: Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1b: Provide reasons that support the opinion.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1d: Provide a concluding statement or section.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.8: Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources; take brief notes on sources and sort evidence into provided categories.

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## Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

**Instructions:** Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

### The First Flag

by

**Content:** It had been a busy day. I helped Betsy Ross. I am a seamstress. I can sew well. We were tired from sewing. Betsy Ross made her living by sewing for people. She sewed many things. She sewed clothes. She sewed curtains. Every day she would start with a pile of cloth and end with things people needed. Everyone knew she would do a good job. So they came to her home and asked her to sew for them. She hired me to help.

One day three men came to her home. They asked her if she could make a flag. I listened to them talk. One of them was named George Washington. I had heard of him. There he was. He came to the store in May. I remember it well because it was my birthday. He was leading the army. The army did not have a flag. The army was fighting for freedom. No one knew if we would win.

They showed Betsy Ross a drawing. It was for the flag of the new country. It had stars. It had stripes. It would have stripes and stars. I said, Silver stars would be good. Betsy said, No. It will be too hard to make. It should be red, white, and blue. So we set to work that day.

We worked on the flag for the next month. It would be very big. We had to do other work, too. She said we have to make more clothes to get money. We're doing the flag as a present. We would not be paid for the flag. It would be a present.

Finally the flag was ready. George Washington sent someone to get it. He opened it up and said, This is it. This is just what we need to inspire the army. He did not show it anyone yet, though. He kept it for a special day.

On July 4th, the army flew the new flag. That was the first Independence Day. On that day the United States said it was a new country. It had a new flag. We were not there. But we heard about it later.

The army had to fight more battles. Just saying they were independent did not make it true. The war went on for 7 more years. We worried. We made more flags. In all those battles, soldiers saw that flag. Still, it was hard to win.

When the war ended, the country started. I was proud when I saw the flag. I didn't just make a flag. I was part of making the United States.

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## Task 1: Vocabulary

**Instructions:** Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

**Q: 1 WordPhrase:** independent **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** The author says "The army had to fight 7 more battles. Just saying they were independent did not make it true. The war went on for 7 more years" In this sentence, "independent" means:

- A: Able to buy a fish.
- B: Walk the dog.
- C: Free to run their own country.
- D: Allowed to set off fireworks.

**Question:** Which sentence below uses the word "independent" correctly?

- A: The country was independent from outside rulers.
  - B: The U.S. became independent and was ruled by England.
  - C: A new born baby is very independent from it's mother.
  - D: If you are independent, you will need a lot of extra help.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** seamstress **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** Betsy Ross is a seamstress. What is a seamstress?

- A: Someone who cuts down trees.
- B: Someone who sails a ship.
- C: Someone who leads an army.
- D: Someone who sews.

**Question:** Which one of the sentences below uses the word "seamstress" correctly?

- A: The seamstress created a wonderful meal for us all.
  - B: Sally's hair was getting long, so she went to the seamstress.
  - C: My grandmother was a seamstress and she made me this dress.
  - D: If I were a seamstress, I would be able to skate very well.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** hired **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** Betsy Ross hired the narrator of this story. What does the word "hired" mean?

- A: To lift you up above someones head.
- B: To have someone do a job for you.
- C: To fly in an airplane.
- D: To creat a flag.

**Question:** Which sentence below uses the word "hired" correctly?

- A: I was hired than the clouds when I flew in that plane.
  - B: If you are hired, you can just go to sleep.
  - C: Bob hired Mary because he did not want to work with her.
  - D: Sam was hired because he was the right man for the job.
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**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** inspire **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** The author writes, \"This is just what we need to inspire the army\". What does the word \"inspire\" mean?

- A: To fill someone with the urge or ability to do or feel something.
- B: To do something nice for someone.
- C: To follow orders.
- D: To show respect for someone.

**Question:** Which sentence below uses the word "inspire" correctly?

- A: The dark and spooky noises may inspire me and I will get scared.
  - B: I would love to inspire other people to do their best.
  - C: I inspire to go to the store.
  - D: Inspire others and they will not want to be your friend.
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## Task 2: Forum Discussion

**Instructions:** This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and and two peer responses for each topic.

### 1 - Purpose of the Flag

What do you think the flag meant to people fighting for freedom?? What did it symbolize??

### 2 - Taking part

The narrator says When the war ended, the country started. I was proud when I saw the flag. I?didnt just make a flag. I was part of making the United States.? Why does she feel she was part of creating the United Sates??

### 3 - Independence Day

What is the meaning of Independence Day?? Why do we celebrate it every year?? Is it important? Explain your answer.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** When the narrator started sewing the flag, she had no idea that they were creating a masterpiece that would represent liberty and freedom. Something that would be gazed at, waved, and hung forever. Write a 500 word essay on the importance of the American flag. What does it mean to you, and to our country? What do the stars and stripes represent? Make sure to provide specific examples.