



## A Lesson on The First Flag by Carly Chinnners

**Grade Level:** Grade 3

**Subject Area:** English Language Arts

**Lesson Length:** 2 hours

**Lesson Keywords:** Independence Day.  
History.

**Lesson Description:** This is a lesson for the Fourth of July to learn about Independence Day. To be done at the end of the year as a truly fun assignment to get the students ready for summer. But of course, there is always an essay involved.

### 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.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.2: Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RF.3.3: Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1a: Introduce the topic or text they are writing about, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure that lists reasons.

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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:** Sew **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** What does the word sew mean in this passage?

- A:** To combine fabric into an object with a needle and thread.
- B:** To bring someone to court.
- C:** Buying something.
- D:** To match items together to make something.

**Question:** Which of these sentences uses the word sew correctly.

- A:** Sew, I believe that we should go to the park.
  - B:** I decided that we should sew the doctor's office.
  - C:** My mom said she would sew the rip in my shirt to fix it.
  - D:** I had to sew the nail into the wall.
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**Q: 2 WordPhrase:** George Washington **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** Who is George Washington?

- A:** A British warrior.
- B:** The leader of the British army.
- C:** A random soldier in the great battle.
- D:** The first president of the United States of America.

**Question:** Which of these sentences including George Washington is true?

- A:** George Washington was a shoe shiner.
  - B:** George Washington led the American armies to victory in the war for independence.
  - C:** George Washington died in World War Two.
  - D:** During the Cold War George Washington flight hard.
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**Q: 3 WordPhrase:** Hire **WordPhraseTier:** 2

**Question:** What does hire mean in this spelling of the word?

- A:** To move upwards.
- B:** To be accepted to a job.
- C:** To help a friend do something.
- D:** To start to fly up farther than you were.

**Question:** In which sentence is the word hire correctly used.

- A:** The hire up I go the more sick I feel.
  - B:** We need to go hire than this.
  - C:** Amanda will be the next person we hire for the job.
  - D:** To be hire is not that important.
- =====

**Q: 4 WordPhrase:** What does Independence mean? **WordPhraseTier:** 3

**Question:** What does independence mean?

- A:** Not going somewhere you do not want to go.
- B:** Not having to follow anyone else's rules.
- C:** Being free to live how you want.
- D:** All of the above.

**Question:** Based off of your previous answer what is Independence Day about?

- A:** Independent Day is when we celebrate being free of Britain's rules.
  - B:** Independence Day is a holiday about fireworks.
  - C:** Independent Day is when you have a day off of school.
  - D:** Independence Day is when we celebrate being free from our parents.
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Task 2: Writing Activity

**Instructions:** You are to write and post here a five paragraph?essay on what the United States flag means to you.?Make sure to provide specific examples.

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### Task 3: 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 two peer responses for each topic.

#### 1 - Is the flag a one woman job?

Do you think Ms. Betsy Ross would have been able to create the flag all alone or did she really need the help of the other woman? Why or why not?

#### 2 - Could you do this?

If you were in Betsy Ross position how would you make the flag?

#### 3 - What was the importance?

Why do you think that George Washington believed it was so necessary for his troops to see that their country had a flag?

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