



A Lesson on The First Flag by Dallas Huete

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 15 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Flag, American History, United States

Lesson Description: Introduces students to the concepts and meaning of the American Flag.

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

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.

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

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.1c: Use linking words and phrases (e.g., because, therefore, since, for example) to connect opinion and reasons.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

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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: United **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the term United mean in our nation's name as the United States?

A: Stand together as one

B: A really long night

C: A short night

D: A Brave Knight

Question: How could you use the word United to address the class?

A: We stand united for the pledge of allegiance

B: We had to stay united until the next day because class was long

C: Thanks to the United night, it was really short

D: The United Knight was strong and powerful on their own.

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Q: 2 WordPhrase: Seamstress **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: What is a "Seamstress"?

A: Someone who cuts plastic

B: Someone who leads a country

C: Someone who seams clothing

D: Someone that follows the sea

Question: Which is the proper use of the title of "seamstress"

A: My mother was a seamstress making clothing

B: My father sailed the seas as a seamstress leading ships

C: When you recycle plastic, a seamstress recycles it

D: A seamstress is always president of the United States

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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 - Flag of the United States

What does the flag of the United States of America mean to you?

2 - Purpose of the American Flag

What purpose do you think the Flag serves? What does the narrator mean when they state I was proud when I saw the flag?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: Write here about the discussion you had with your classmates regarding the meaning of the American Flag. Were their opinions different than yours? Is there only one meaning of the flag??

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