



A Lesson on The First Flag by Autumn Carroll

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour

Lesson Keywords: Flag, United States

Lesson Description: Understanding what a seamstress does, and how one created the United States 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.3.7: Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story (e.g., create mood, emphasize aspects of a character or setting).

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.3.1d: Provide a concluding statement or section.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.1d: Explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.2: Determine the main ideas and supporting details of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3.6: Speak in complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation in order to provide requested detail or clarification. (See grade 3 Language standards 1 and 3 here for specific expectations.)

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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: seamstress **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "I am a seamstress. I can sew well.".... What does the word seamstress mean in this sentence?

- A: A person who makes coffee
- B: A person who helps others
- C: A person who can sew and make clothing
- D: A football player

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

- A: I put my boat into the water, or as we often call it a seamstress.
- B: Seamstress' work on construction sites.
- C: I went to the seamstress because I needed new clothing.
- D: The seamstress signed up my family for a new phone contract.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: hired **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the first paragraph of our story the author says " She hired me to help.".. what does the word "hired" mean in this sentence?

- A: The author was saying hello
- B: Working for someone
- C: Creating something new
- D: Was high in the air

Question: Which one of these sentences below uses the word "hired" correctly?

- A: On Sunday we let people get hired in the hot air balloon.
- B: When a plane takes off it becomes hired.
- C: I became hired when I changed my tire.
- D: I was hired at Walmart as an sales clerk.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: army **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The author in our story says "He was leading the army. The army did not have a flag."... What does the word "army" mean in this sentence?

- A: A group of people that form to fight another group.
- B: One person who fights another.
- C: A party where everyone has fun.
- D: A place where they make new clothes.

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

- A: Ouch! That was my army! I say as someone pinches me.
- B: My son joined the army because he wanted to serve our country.
- C: I have an army of landry to do today.
- D: I spent way to much money, my husbands going to throw an army.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: inspire **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author in our story says "This is it. This is just what we need to inspire the army."... What does the word "inspire" mean in this sentence?

- A: Encourage
- B: Stop
- C: Calm
- D: Persuade

Question: Which one of these sentences use the word "inspire" correctly?

- A: Ew, I inspire so much that I stink from being outside.
- B: My bottle of water gets cold on the outside and then it inspires.
- C: I wish I could inspire these clothes together.
- D: As a teacher I inspire others to follow their dreams.

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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 two peer responses for each topic.

1 - Why did Betsy Ross hire someone else to help her sew the flag?

Explain why Betsy Ross had to hire someone to help her sew the flag. Make sure to include references from the text to support our own ideas.?

2 - What would you ask Betsy Ross to make you?

Consider that Betsy Ross is a seamstress, she only makes certain things. What would you ask Betsy Ross to make you, and why? Use the text to support your ideas.?

3 - Why do you think an army needs a flag?

Explain why an army needs a flag. Use the text to help you understand, and also reference the text to help you form an opinion.?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write a paragraph discussing why the army choose Betsy Ross to make the flag. Make sure to reference the text to support your ideas.

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