



A Lesson on The First Flag by Christine Blevins

Grade Level: Grade 3

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 45 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Flag, United States, Besty Ross, Revolutionary War.

Lesson Description: Teaches students about the first flags origin. Questions them on the flags importance. Builds 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.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.3.6: Distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of a text.

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.3.2d: Provide a concluding statement or section.

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

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.

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: In the story the author says that, "I am a seamstress" referring to Betsy Ross as well. What is a seamstress?

- A: Someone who cuts meat.
- B: Someone who writes letters.
- C: Someone who sews.
- D: Someone relieves stress.

Question: Which sentence uses the word seamstress correctly?

- A: My quilt was made by an experienced seamstress.
 - B: The steamstress created a beautiful painting.
 - C: The trees were cut down by the seamstress.
 - D: A seamstress lays down tile.
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Q: 2 WordPhrase: freedom **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: In the sentence: "The army was fighting for freedom." What does freedom mean?

- A: To not be imprisoned.
- B: To buy anything without cost.
- C: An object that is blue.
- D: The dome of a building.

Question: Which statement uses the word "freedom" correctly?

- A: The girl wiped freedom on her dolls face.
 - B: The bird had freedom to roam outside its cage.
 - C: The wave gave freedom to the sea.
 - D: The boy had freedom chained to the wall.
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Q: 3 WordPhrase: proud **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: What does the word "proud" mean in this sentence from the text, "I was proud when I saw the flag."

- A: Seeing in different colors
- B: Feeling of being sad
- C: Feeling deep satisfaction
- D: Hearing soft music

Question: The word "Proud" is used correctly in which one of these sentences?

- A: The crowd proud through the field.
 - B: The needle proud through the quilt while sewing.
 - C: The team was proud that they won the game.
 - D: The girl failed her test and her Mom was proud.
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Q: 4 WordPhrase: independent **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The word "independent" from the text, "Just saying they were independent did not make it true." means

- A: needing the support of someone else
- B: wanting to be tied to another
- C: free from depending on someone or something else
- D: to jump in deep water

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

- A: The baby was independent because they needed help eating.
 - B: The independent girl had her friend do her project for her.
 - C: She was so independent she folded all the laundry and put it away all by herself.
 - D: As the boy followed the crowd, he was being independent.
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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 - The flag given as a gift

In the text, Betsy Ross states that the flag that she was making was to be a present. Why do you think that she wanted this to be a gift instead of getting paid to do such a large task?

2 - Special day to fly the flag

Why was George Washington so intent on waiting to fly the flag on a specific day?

3 - Making part of the United States

In the text it states, She was making part of the United States What do you think she meant by this statement??

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 500 words essay on what the American flag symbolizes and what the design and colors represent??Make sure to provide specific examples.

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