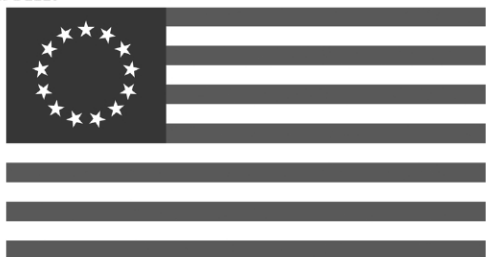




This week, in honor of Independence Day on July 4, The Mini Page shares more about the flag that has become a symbol of U.S. freedom.



The first flag

The original American flag had 13 red and white stripes and 13 white stars on a blue background. The stripes and stars stood for the original 13 states.

Congress hoped the flag would be a symbol for freedom. In a resolution about the flag, it said, “White signifies Purity and Innocence; Red, Hardiness and Valor; Blue signifies Vigilance, Perseverance and Justice.”

No one knows for sure who designed the flag. Many people think that Betsy Ross sewed the first flag, but there are different accounts of who designed it and who produced it.

Before the United States had a flag, many of the states used their own flags as they fought against the British for independence.



George Washington used the Grand Union Flag to represent the 13 colonies before the first flag was adopted.

Respecting the flag

The U.S. Congress has set up rules about how our flag should be treated. Here are a few:

- When the flag is displayed flat against the wall, the stars should be at the top and to the flag’s own right (our left).
- A flag should be taken down if the weather is so bad it could be badly damaged.
- When the flag is flown along with state flags, the U.S. flag should be displayed above and in the middle of the state flags.
- Do not place any other flag above our flag, except at the United Nations. There, the U.N. flag flies above all others, and the flags of all the countries are flown in alphabetical order.
- When a flag is flown outside, it is usually flown during the day and taken down at night. In public places, flags flying at night should be lighted.



Flags fly outside the United Nations building in New York City.



A flag flying at half-staff, or halfway up the pole, stands for mourning.

- Do not display the flag upside down except as a signal of distress.

Our national anthem

Do you sing “The Star-Spangled Banner” at school or before sporting events? Francis Scott Key’s famous anthem is a tribute to our nation’s flag. Do you know the words?

*O say can you see by the dawn’s early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars
through the perilous fight,
O’er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets’ red glare, the bombs
bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our
flag was still there;
O say does that star-spangled banner
yet wave,
O’er the land of the free, and the home
of the brave?*

Francis Scott Key was being held prisoner by the British during the War of 1812 on a ship in Baltimore Harbor. He watched as they fired on Fort McHenry, but the next morning, the U.S. flag was still flying! He called his song “The Defence of Fort McHenry.” Congress made it our national anthem in 1931.



Francis Scott Key

Resources



On the Web:

- usa.gov/flag

At the library:

- “Star-Spangled: The Story of a Flag, a Battle and the American Anthem” by Tim Grove

Try ‘n’ Find

Words that remind us of the American flag are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

ANTHEM, BALTIMORE,
BLUE, BRITISH,
CONGRESS, DISPLAY,
FIRST, FLAG, FLY, FORT,
FREEDOM, GRAND,
KEY, LIGHT, MCHENRY,
RED, RESPECT, STARS,
STRIPES, SYMBOL,
UNION, WHITE.

I L A N T H E M S B W H I T E
F H F O K E Y G A S T L C L Y
R S M I F L W L S R H I O R A
E I C N F R T Q T A G Q N T L
E T H U R I E B R T I D G L P
D I E R M U F S I S L N R O S
O R N O L I O C P R G A E B I
M B R B R U R J E E Y R S M D
O E Y S B Z T D S J C G S Y K
Q L T O F L A G R P B T M S G



Cook’s Corner

Oven-Baked BCT Sandwiches

You’ll need:

- 8 slices whole-wheat bread
- butter or margarine
- 4 slices cheddar cheese

- 8 slices bacon, cooked
- 4 slices tomato
- lemon-pepper seasoning (optional)



What to do:

1. Butter 4 slices bread. Lay buttered side down on cookie sheet.
2. Layer cheese, 2 slices bacon (cut in half) and tomato on buttered slices.
3. Sprinkle lemon-pepper seasoning as desired on tomatoes.
4. Butter last four slices of bread and place on top.
5. Bake in preheated 400-degree oven for 6 to 7 minutes on one side.
6. Flip with spatula and continue baking for additional 6 minutes.
7. Slice in half and serve. Makes 4 sandwiches.

* You’ll need an adult’s help with this recipe.

1. Special cloth with design and color used as a symbol (4-letter noun)

□ □ □ □

2. Condition of having liberty; ability to move as you wish (7-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

3. To think of someone or something again (8-letter verb)

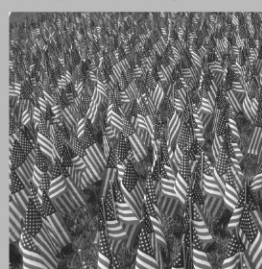
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

4. Someone in military service; esp. the army (7-letter noun)

□ □ □ □ □ □ □

1. Americans will salute their red, white and blue _____.
2. Prisoners gained their _____ when the war ended.
3. Tommy likes to _____ last year’s fireworks display.
4. Connie’s dad, a _____, marches in a July 4th parade.

ROOTONYM®
by Jan & Carey Orr Cook



Study the definition. When you know the missing word, fill in the letter boxes and the sentence blanks.

Answers: Flag, Freedom, Remember, Soldier.

Mini Jokes



Fanny: What happened when the angry kid put a firecracker under his pancakes?
Frank: He blew his stack!

Eco Note



A switch from the typical Western diets of meat and dairy products to proteins such as insects, algae, kelp and lab-grown meat could slash the amount of Europe’s food-related greenhouse gases by more 80%, according to University of Finland researchers. They also say the changes could reduce water and land use for food by up to 87%. “It would be a way for someone to [eat] their fast-food burger, but save on land use and water use,” said Rachel Mazac.

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For later:

Look in your newspaper for items about Independence Day events in your area.

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