

The American Flag

by Katie Clark

The American flag is a banner of independence for each state in the country. It has changed over the years, but the meaning behind this national symbol stays the same. It shows that America is made of many states—but they are all united as one nation.

Today, the American flag has thirteen horizontal stripes. It also has fifty stars on a blue background. The stripes are red and white. The stars are for the fifty states.

It didn't always have thirteen stripes. In 1776, the flag had thirteen stars. As new states were added to the nation, new stars were added. In 1959, President Dwight Eisenhower signed a law that changed the flag to have fifty stars.

The flag is a national symbol. We all over the world recognize it. Because of this, we have rules to display it properly. This helps make the flag a symbol of respect.

When you hang up a flag, the stars should always be on your left. This is the rule whether you're hanging it from side-to-side or up-and-down.

Another common rule is to stand for the flag. It shows respect and love for your country to stand when the American flag is brought into a room. Many people also place their right hand over their heart.



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The Star-Spangled Banner is America's national anthem. One part of the song talks about the flag. It says, "Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?"

The writer of the song was in prison during the War for Independence. After a big battle, he looked out the prison window and saw the flag still waving. He knew the Americans had won the fight!

While the American flag is a symbol of independence for the states, it is also a symbol of freedom and respect for our flag and show love and

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1) What does the American flag symbolize?

2) Explain the design of the flag in your own words, making a special mention of the reason for the growing number of stars.

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3) What makes the

4) What rules ought to be followed when displaying the flag, and why?

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- 5) "Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?" Interpret and explain the meaning of this line.

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