



Lesson: A Revolutionary Flag

(To follow Amplify CKLA 1, Knowledge 10: A New Nation,
Lesson 5: The Legend of Betsy Ross)

At a Glance

In this lesson, students investigate the symbol of one of our first national flags and create their own flag designs.

Primary Focus Objectives

- Students will analyze a historic flag and discuss what the symbol on the flag means.
- Students will brainstorm other ways to show the concept of “unity” on a flag.
- Students will design their own flags for the new nation.

Formative Assessment

- Group discussion
- Flag design

Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.2

Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.8

With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

Materials

- Image: [Revolutionary War National Flag](#)
- Flag template

Time Needed

One 30-40 minute class session

Learning Activity

1. **Analyze the image.** Project or distribute copies of the image of the Revolutionary War flag. Give students time to look at it and then read aloud a passage about the symbol at the center of the flag. Ask students what they think the symbol might mean and why the patriots chose it for their flag. *(10 minutes)*
2. **Brainstorm.** As a class, brainstorm different ways that the concept of “unity” could be portrayed on a flag, building off the two examples with which students are already familiar (Betsy Ross and the New Hampshire flag). Write down students’ ideas on a chart or white board. *(20 minutes)*
3. **Design a flag.** Provide students with the template and appropriate art materials. Ask them to pick a symbol of unity—either one from the brainstorming session or one that they come up with on their own—and design their own national flag. Give them time to draw a flag. *(15 minutes)*



Educator Rationale and Answer Guide

Connection to Amplify

In this lesson, students investigate a national flag that pre-dates the familiar “stars and stripes” that evolved into our current flag of the United States of America. Students analyze a photograph of a flag carried by the 2nd New Hampshire Regiment in 1777. This flag design, created by Benjamin Franklin, was used throughout the colonies to symbolize their unity as a new nation. Students build their comprehension skills with a discussion activity and then apply their understanding by creating their own design for a flag. The learning goals of this lesson extend those of Lesson 5: The Legend of Betsy Ross, in Amplify CKLA 1, Unit 10: A New Nation, by providing students with the story behind an important national flag.

Analyze the image

Project the image so that students can observe the flag in color and zoom in on details as they discuss what they observe.

Read the passage

Read aloud the passage about the flag, possibly projecting the passage as well so that students can follow along. Point out on the image different parts of the symbol as you read, or ask a student to do it. The discuss the concept of “unity” and why it was important to the patriots.

Brainstorm

Explain to students that people use flags to communicate important ideas. This revolutionary flag and the national flag we know today communicate the idea of our country being a unified collection of different places. Ask students about different ways to portray unity through images or design. What kind of flag would they draw to remind Revolutionary War soldiers what they were fighting for? Write their suggestions on a chart or whiteboard so that they can refer back to them in the next step.

Draw a flag

Tell students to create their own flags, either using one of the image or design ideas the class came up with or their own ideas. Give them time to complete their designs on the provided template.



Revolutionary War National Flag



Source: New Hampshire Historical Society



Reading passage: New Hampshire Flag

This flag is from the American Revolution.

In 1777, a group of soldiers from New Hampshire carried this flag.

The design in the center shows 13 circles around a sun. The 13 circles stand for the 13 original American colonies. Each colony's name is written in one of the circles.

The words on the sun in the middle say "We are One." What do you think the words mean?

