



FLAGS FOR FIRST GRADERS PROGRAM



INTRODUCTION

“The Forty & Eight’s Flags for First Graders program is found to be popular among Voyageurs who conduct flag education programs in elementary schools. The program is responsible for educating thousands of American youth in the flag history, respect and protocol”. Nationale Website

Thanks to several Voyageurs willingness to share their programs, the internet and trial and error this script was developed. It can be modified to fit your needs and style. Take on the challenge, you and your Voyageurs and Cabane members won’t be disappointed.

INSTRUCTIONS

This script is best conducted with 3-5 people, preferably Voyageurs and Cabane members. Materials consist of small flags (4”x6”) mounted on a stick to give to each child, and a large flag (5’x8’) “casket size” used for the folding portion of the script. Use the schools mounted stage flag to point out the details of the flag. Optional is the letter to the parents provided as an attachment.

Contact the schools in your area and set up a date. Discuss the program with them so that they know what to expect.

To make the program a success you need to assign positions/parts and practice with everyone. Be on time the school administration has time restraints and they are making concessions for this program. The entire presentation should take no more than 20 minutes from start to finish. If you allow the students to participate they will get more out of the program and you and your team will enjoy this experience much more.

Remember! After you complete you program make sure you send Grand the Flags for First Graders Annual Reports.

Merci,

Thomas R. Smith, Nationale Sous’ Directeur Americanism Flags 2011

FLAGS FOR FIRST GRADERS

GOOD MORNING OR AFTERNOON BOYS AND GIRLS. WE WANT TO THANK YOUR TEACHERS AND PRINCIPLE, FOR ALLOWING US TO BE HERE TODAY TO SPEAK WITH YOU ABOUT THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

WE WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES, TELL YOU ABOUT VETERANS AND ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION.

A VETERAN IS SOMEONE WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES. WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE 40 & 8, THE ORGANIZATION WHICH SPONSORS THE FLAGS FOR FIRST GRADERS PROGRAM. WE ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF VARIOUS VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS.

I AM _____, A VETERAN AND I HAVE SERVED IN THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD, THE UNITED STATES NAVY AND I AM RETIRED FROM THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE. MY FRIENDS WILL NOW INTRODUCE THEMSEVES.

I WOULD LIKE SOME OF YOU TO PARTICIPATE, SO NOW AND THEN I WILL ASK A QUESTION AND PICK SOMEONE TO PROVIDE THE ANSWER.

WE WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES. Have one or two team members hold out the flag. *(Use the Flag that is mounted and belongs to the School)*

OUR FLAG HAS A FEW NAMES. WHO CAN TELL ME SOME OF THESE NAMES?

“The Stars and Stripes” “Old Glory” “The Star Spangled Banner”

WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE OFFICAL SONG THAT WE SING TO OUR FLAG?

“The Star Spangled Banner”

THIS IS ALSO KNOWN AS?

“The National Anthem”

WHO WROTE THE WORDS AND WHERE WAS HE WHEN HE WROTE THEM?

“Francis Scott Key during the Revolutionary War while he was a prisoner on a British War Ship near Fort McHenry”

WHEN WE SING THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

“First of all, we should stand up. People in uniform salute the flag and those not in uniforms should remove their hats and place their right hand over their heart like this. We should do the very same thing at a parade when the flag passes before us.”

NOW TAKE A LOOK AT OUR FLAG! (*Open the 5'x8' flag*) **“The Flag of the United States of America”**

TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT OUR FLAG. HOW MANY STARS ARE THERE?

“50” WHAT DO THEY STAND FOR? “One for each state that makes up our nation”

HOW MANY STRIPES ON THE FLAG?

"7 Red" "6 White" "13 in all"

WHAT DOES THE NUMBER 13 STAND FOR?

The 13 original colonies and eventually states

HOW MANY STARS AND STRIPES WERE ON THE FIRST UNITED STATES FLAG?

"13 and 13"

HAVE WE ALWAYS HAD 13 STRIPES ON OUR FLAG?

"In 1795 there were 15 stripes on the flag. The states of Vermont and Kentucky were added to the stripes. In 1918 they changed it back to 13 after 5 more states were added to the Union. They decided to add stars instead of stripes"

HOW OLD IS THE UNITED STATES FLAG?

"The first flag was made in 1776, so our flag is 233 years old"

HISTORY TELLS US THAT A LADY SEWED THE FIRST AMERICAN FLAG.

WHO WAS IT?

"Betsey Ross"

NOW, LET ME TELL YOU SOME THINGS THAT WE SHOULD DO WITH OUR FLAG?

1. NEVER HAVE ANOTHER COUNTRY'S FLAG FLY OVER OUR FLAG WHEN THEY ARE DISPLAYED TOGETHER.

2. NEVER FLY THE FLAG UPSIDE DOWN. THIS IS CONSIDERED A DISTRESS SIGNAL, AN "SOS" OR A SIGN OF EXTREME DANGER.
3. NEVER ALLOW OUR FLAG TO TOUCH THE GROUND, OR WATER IF IT IS BEING FLOWN ON A BOAT.
4. NEVER DISPOSE OF OUR FLAG BY THROWING IT IN THE TRASH. THE PROPER WAY TO RETIRE A FLAG IS TO SOLEMNLY BURN IT. NOW YOU SHOULD NEVER DO THIS, REMEMBER NEVER PLAY WITH FIRE. THE WORN OUT FLAGS SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO A VETERANS POST AND WE WILL DISPOSE OF IT PROPERLY.
5. ALWAYS SHOW OUR FLAG PROPER RESPECT WHEN FLYING IT, STORING IT OR WHEN THE TIME COMES PROPERLY DISPOSING OF IT.

WE HAVE SMALL FLAGS FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU AND A LETTER FOR YOUR PARENTS. YOUR TEACHERS WILL GIVE THEM TO YOU TODAY BEFORE YOU GO HOME. NOW I WANT YOU ALL TO BE CAREFUL WITH THE STICK THEY ARE MOUNTED ON. DO NOT POKE THE STICK AT ANYONE OR YOURSELF. THEY CAN SEVERELY INJURE YOU.

NOW I WOULD LIKE EVERYONE TO STAND AND JOIN ME IN RECITING THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

BEFORE WE CLOSE WE ARE GOING TO CEREMONIALLY FOLD THIS LARGE (5'x8') FLAG AND I WILL TELL YOU WHAT EACH FOLD MEANS. SO WE HAVE TO BE QUIET NOW SO EVERYONE CAN HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO TELL YOU.

Read the folding script while the Flag is being folded

Note! Practice the timing

(Make sure the Triangle fold is complete before the next part is read)

THE FIRST FOLD: THE 13 STRIPES REPRESENT THE ORIGINAL 13 STATES: DELAWARE, PENNSYLVANIA, NEW JERSEY, GEORGIA, CONNECTICUT, MASSACHUSETTS, MARYLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, VIRGINIA, NEW YORK, NORTH CAROLINA AND RHODE ISLAND

THE SECOND FOLD: THE 50 STARS REPRESENT OUR 50 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE THIRD FOLD: "I KNOW NOT WHAT COURSE OTHERS MAY TAKE; BUT AS FOR ME, GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH" **PATRICK HENRY**

THE FOURTH FOLD: "THESE ARE THE TIMES THAT TRY MEN'S SOULS. THE SUMMER SOLDIER AND THE SUNSHINE PATRIOT WILL, IN THIS CRISIS, SHRINK FROM THE SERVICE OF THEIR COUNTRY; BUT HE THAT STANDS IT NOW, DESERVES THE LOVE AND THANKS OF MAN AND WOMAN" **THOMAS PAINE**

THE FIFTH FOLD: WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL. THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS. AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS" **THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

THE SIXTH FOLD: “WE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, IN ORDER TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION, ESTABLISH JUSTICE, INSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY, PROVIDE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE, PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE, AND SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY TO OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY, DO ORDAIN AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA”
THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

THE SEVENTH FOLD: “CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF; OR ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS, OR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE, AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES” **THE FIRST AMENDMENT**

THE EIGHT FOLD: “THE BASIS OF OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM IS THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO MAKE AND TO ALTER THEIR CONSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT” **PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON**

THE NINTH FOLD: “MY GOD! HOW LITTLE DO MY COUNTRYMEN KNOW WHAT PRECIOUS BLESSINGS THEY ARE IN POSSESSION OF AND WHICH NO OTHER PEOPLE ON EARTH ENJOY!” **PRESIDENT THOMAS JEFFERSON**

THE TENTH FOLD: “FOURSCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO OUR FATHERS BROUGHT FORTH ON THIS CONTINENT A NEW NATION, CONCEIVED IN

LIBERTY AND DEDICATED TO THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL” **PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN**

THE ELEVENTH FOLD: “GIVE ME YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR, YOUR HUDDLED MASSES YEARNING TO BREATHE FREE, THE WRETCHED REFUSE OF YOUR TEEMING SHORE, SEND THESE, THE HOMELESS, TEMPEST-TOSSED TO ME, I LIFT MY LAMP BESIDE THE GOLDEN DOOR”
THE INSCRIPTION ON THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

THE TWELFTH FOLD: “ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU, BUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR COUNTRY” **PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY**

THE THIRTEENTH FOLD: “I HAVE A DREAM THAT MY FOUR LITTLE CHILDREN WILL ONE DAY LIVE IN A NATION WHERE THEY WILL NOT BE JUDGED BY THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN, BUT BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER” **DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR**

AFTER THE FLAG IS COMPLETELY FOLDED AND TUCKED IN, IT TAKES ON THE APPEARANCE OF A COCKED HAT EVER REMINDING US OF THE SOLDIERS WHO SERVED UNDER GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON, AND THE SAILORS AND MARINES WHO SERVED UNDER CAPTAIN JOHN PAUL JONES, AND THEY WERE FOLLOWED BY THEIR COMARADES AND SHIPMATES IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES, HAVE PRESERVED FOR US THE FIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND FREEDOMS WHICH WE ARE ENJOYING TODAY.

THIS IS THE END OF OUR PROGRAM. I HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT THE NEXT PARADE WITH THE FLAG YOU ARE RECEIVING TODAY AND WAIVE IT WHEN YOU SEE US **THE 40&8** MARCHING BY.