



# American Flag Worksheets

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Original Thirteen Stripes



The thirteen stripes of the American flag signify the original thirteen colonies who fought against British rule and gained independence. Can you map all the colonies?



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Who Made It Better?



Ross and Hopkinson both made claims to making first American flag. Can you tell us their respective stories in making America's leading national symbol?



BETSY ROSS

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



FRANCIS HOPKINSON

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Through Time



Since its first adoption, the American flag has been modified 26 times. Look back on major modifications to complete the timeline.



1959

1960

1912

1818

1795

June 14, 1777

# Free Sample

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- Ryan, Beth & Nicola :)

# American Flag **Facts**



The American Flag has been the national flag of the United States since June 14, 1777, with the original thirteen-star version. Since 1777, it has been modified 26 times up to the current 50-star version that was adopted on July 4, 1960. It is also called the Stars and Stripes, Star-Spangled Banner, and Old Glory.

## Historical Background

- ★ Even after the Declaration of Independence in July 1776, the Continental Congress did not immediately adopt an official flag. The Continental Cross flag was historically referred to as the first national flag under British rule.
- ★ The Continental Cross, also referred to as the Grand Union, closely resembles the British East India Company flag.

# American Flag Facts

- ★ The Second Continental Congress passed the Flag Resolution on June 14, 1777, which stated:

*“... That the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new constellation.”*

- ★ On August 3, 1777, the first official flag of the United States was flown at Fort Schuyler during the Siege at Fort Stanwix. But despite the resolution, Americans featured many flags in the early years of independence.



***Depiction of Betsy Ross sewing the first American flag in 1776 with the guidance of General George Washington***



## **Controversial Designer**

- ★ The story of Betsy Ross being the sewer of the first American flag was said to be publicly disseminated by her descendants in 1870. It was believed that General Washington handed Ross a pencil sketch design of the flag but no records have been found to support the claim.

# American Flag Facts

- ★ On the other hand, early claims of designing the flag were made by Francis Hopkinson, a naval flag designer and a signatory of the Declaration of Independence document.



*Hopkinson's flag design for the US Navy, 1777*

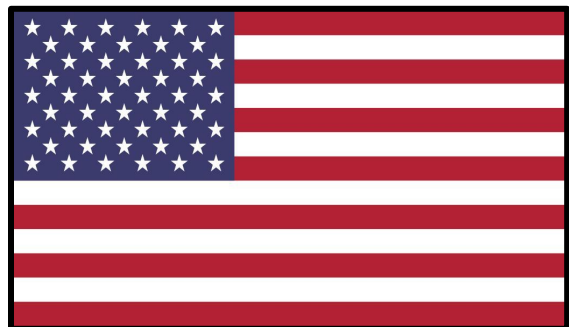
- ★ His claims for designing the naval flag were documented in the *Journals of the Continental Congress*.

## Modifications Over Time

- ★ By 1795, two stars and stripes were added to the flag after the entry of Kentucky and Vermont as states of the Union. For some time, the flag was not changed after subsequent admission of states to the Union. It was only in 1818 that Congress passed a resolution to add five more stars and a new star to be added when a new state was admitted. It also specified that the number of stripes should be reduced from 15 to 13 to honor the original thirteen colonies.
- ★ A short-lived 49-star flag was made after the admission of Alaska in January 1959. After a year, Hawaii gained its statehood and became the 50th star on the flag.
- ★ On July 4, 2007, the 50-star flag design became the longest design in use, surpassing the 1912 to 1959 48-star version.



*15-star, 15-striped Star Spangled Banner, Flag, 1795*



*Current 50-star American Flag*



# American Flag Facts

## Symbol and Etiquette of the American Flag

- ★ The American flag is one of the leading symbols of the United States. Aside from public buildings, most residential houses display the flag. Moreover, it's become a common motif for badges, clothes, and cars. In retail stores, giant outdoor flags are flown to attract customers.



- ★ The official colors of the flag are white, old glory red, and old glory blue. These colors represent liberty and purity (white), valor (red), and justice and loyalty (blue).

### *Example of Residential Flag Display*

- ★ There is a special flag code on how the American flag should be displayed, folded and disposed of. Here are some guidelines:
  - The flag should never touch the ground.
  - If flown at night, it should be illuminated, if not possible it should be taken down before sunset.
  - If it becomes tattered and cannot be repaired, it should be destroyed through burning.
  - It should never be used as apparel for wearing.
  - In vehicles, it should be affixed on the right side.
  - Flag patches on US military uniforms are worn on the right shoulder.

# American Flag **Facts**

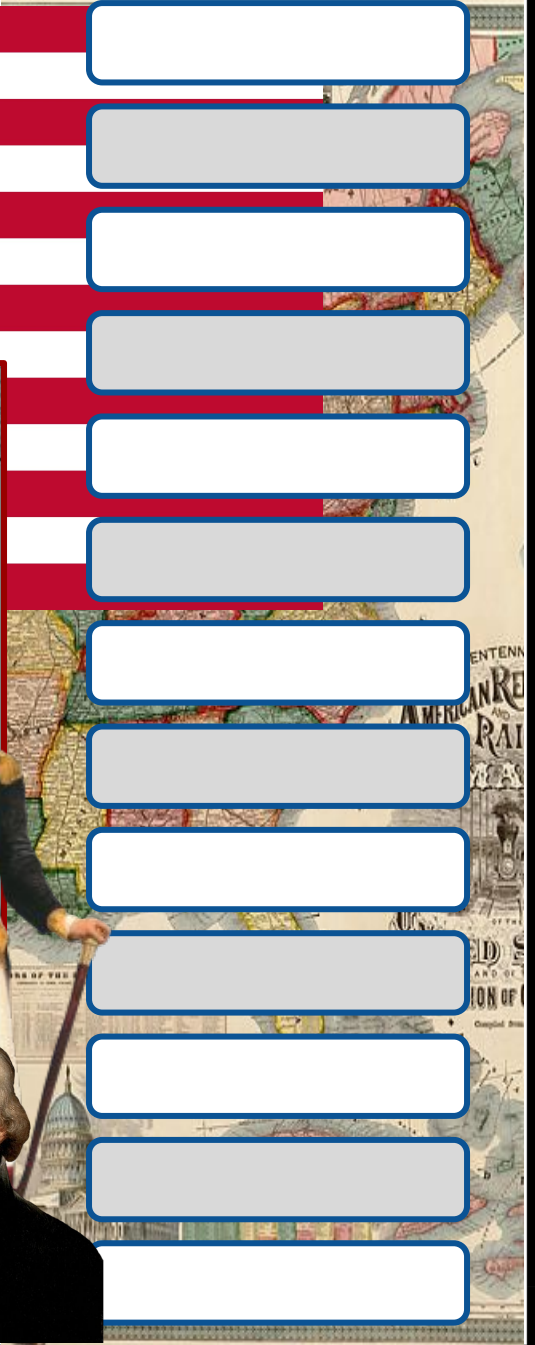
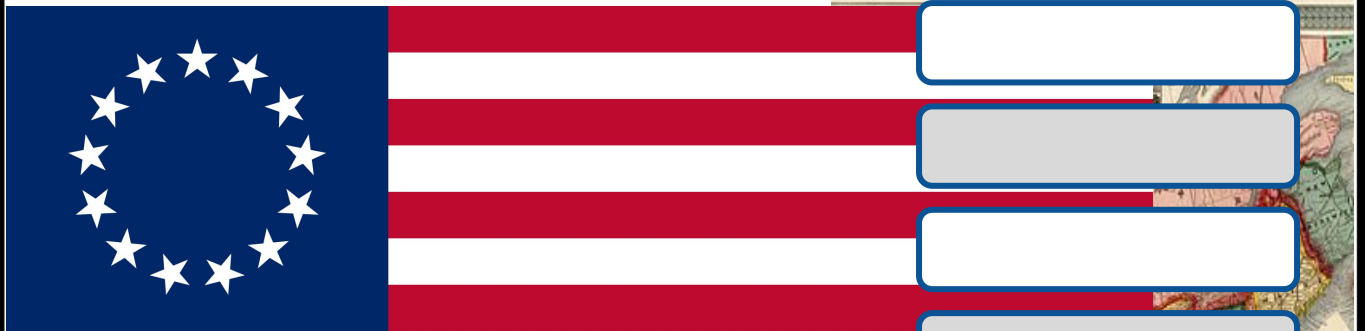
- ★ Flags are displayed at half-staff or half-mast when the country is in mourning.
- ★ It is also used at occasional funerals including military people, civil servants, enforcement officers, firefighters, and US presidents. Prior to the casket being lowered into the ground, the flag is ceremonially folded and given to the survivors of the deceased as a token of respect.
- ★ Five out of six flags planted on the moon are still standing.
- ★ Today, National Flag Day is celebrated in the United States every June 14th.

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# The Original Thirteen Stripes



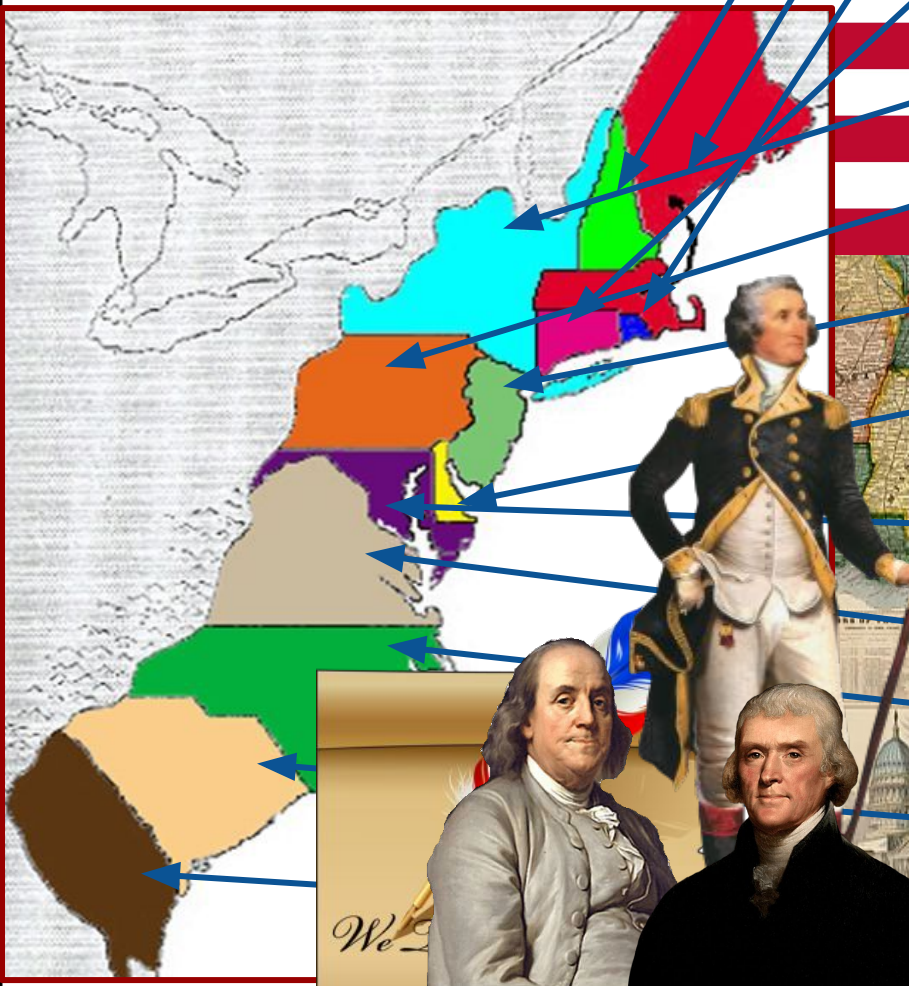
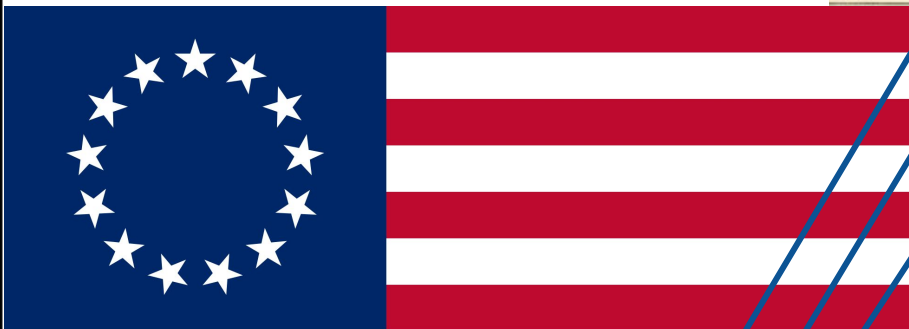
The thirteen stripes of the American flag signify the original thirteen colonies who fought against British rule and gained independence. Can you map all the colonies?





# The Original Thirteen Stripes

## ANSWER KEY



**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**MASSACHUSETTS**

**RHODE ISLAND**

**CONNECTICUT**

**NEW YORK**

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**NEW JERSEY**

**DELAWARE**

**MARYLAND**

**VIRGINIA**

**NORTH CAROLINA**

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

**GEORGIA**

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