



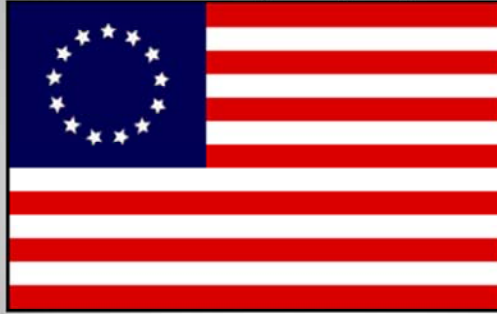
The US AMERICAN FLAG and ETIQUETTE

AMERICANA PROGRAM

DOHA, QATAR
February 2010

"Betsy Ross" Flag

- No official flag during the first year of the United States
- Great number of homespun flag designs.



- Best known version of early flags
- No one knows who sewed first American flag. Legend says it was Betsy Ross. Betsy Ross suggested the five-pointed star because it was easy to cut.



Since there was no official flag during the first year of the United States, there were a great number of homespun flag designs. **This flag** is without question the most well known of those. There are many reasons why this flag is confused with the first official U.S. flag. No one knows who actually sewed the first American flag, but the legend is that it was Betsy Ross.

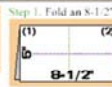
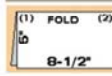
The First Official United States Flag:
13-Star Flag became the Official U. S. Flag on
June 14th, 1777



The only President to serve under this flag was [George Washington \(1789-1797\)](#). This Flag was to last for a period of 18 years. Each star *and* stripe represented a Colony of which there were thirteen, united nearly one year earlier by the Declaration of Independence.

Take a thin piece of paper $8\frac{1}{2}" \times 10"$ (or an exact proportion thereof), fold it as indicated and cut yourself a perfect 5-pointed star.

Thanks to the Betty Ross House for providing these instructions.



Step 1. Fold an $8\frac{1}{2}" \times 10"$ piece of paper in half.

Step 2. Fold and unfold in half both ways to form creased center lines. (Note: be sure paper is still folded in half.)



Step 3. Bring corner (1) right to meet the center line. Be sure to fold from the vertical crease line.



Step 4. Bring corner (1) left till edges coincide, then make the fold.



Step 5. Bring corner (2) left and fold.



Step 6. Bring corner (2) right until edges coincide. Then fold.



Step 7. Cut on the angle as shown in the picture. Then unfold the small piece.



Step 8. Marvel at your perfect (we hope!) 5-pointed star! If your star is not perfect, take a fresh piece of paper ($8\frac{1}{2}" \times 10"$ — not $8\frac{1}{2}" \times 11"$) and return to Step 1.

The Star Spangled Banner: Official United States Flag May 1st, 1795.

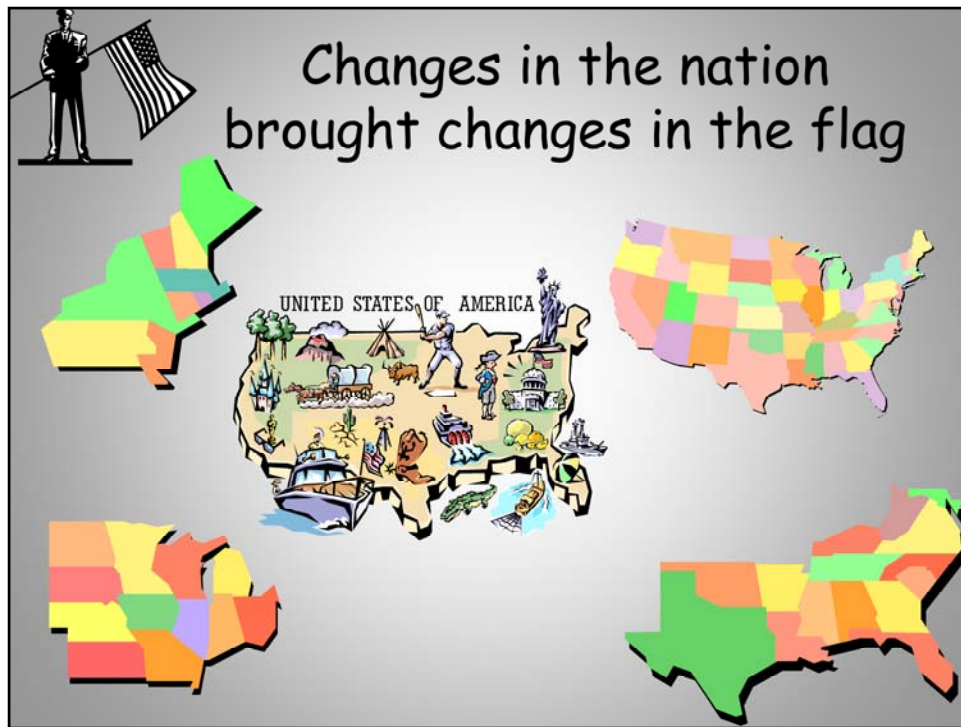
- immortalized by [Francis Scott Key](#) during bombardment of Fort McHenry, Sept 13, 1814.
- Five Presidents served under this flag



- How many stars?
- How many stripes?



[George Washington \(1789-1797\)](#), [John Adams \(1797-1801\)](#), [Thomas Jefferson \(1801-1809\)](#), [James Madison \(1809-1817\)](#), and [James Monroe \(1817-1825\)](#).



As a new state was added to the Union, usually a new star and stripe was added. That became problematic, so it was decided that There would be 13 stripes(for the thirteen original states), yet a new star would be added each 4th of July following the admission of a new state.




Current 50-Star Flag:
Established by Pres. Eisenhower August, 1959
Stars in **nine** rows staggered horizontally;
eleven rows staggered vertically.



Became official flag on July 4, 1960.



PARTS OF THE FLAG

- **Canton**: The blue area with the stars(also called the union) 
- **Field**: The main body of the flag
- **Fly**: The bottom length of the flag
- **Halyard**: The rope or cord used to raise the flag
- **Hoist**: The flag's side or width





HOW DO WE HANDLE OUR FLAG?





Flag etiquette

1. The flag must be raised swiftly, but lowered slowly



What is etiquette? What does that mean? It means the way we treat something or the proper way of handling or treating something or even someone?



Flag etiquette

2) Do not fly the flag in bad weather unless it is an all weather flag.



CLICK ON THE SPEAKERS FOR THUNDERSTORM SOUNDS



Flag etiquette

- 3) The flag may be flown at night, only if properly lighted.





Flag etiquette

- 4) The flag should **never** touch the ground.





Flag etiquette

5) In the US, no other flag may be flown higher than the US flag except at the **United Nations** headquarters in NYC. There it is at same level as flags of other nations.)



Side note---The United Nations headquarters is located in Manhattan, NYC. The **United Nations Organization (UNO)** or simply **United Nations (UN)** is an [international organization](#) whose stated aims are facilitating cooperation in [international law](#), [international security](#), [economic development](#), [social progress](#), [human rights](#), and the achieving of [world peace](#). The UN was founded in 1945 after [World War II](#) to replace the [League of Nations](#), to stop [wars](#) between [countries](#), and to provide a platform for dialogue. It contains multiple subsidiary organizations to carry out its missions.

THE FLAG CAN BE DISPLAYED ON ALL DAYS, BUT PARTICULARLY SO ON:

- **New Year's Day**, January 1
- **Inauguration Day**, January 20
- **Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday**, third Monday in January
- **Lincoln's Birthday**, February 12
- **Washington's Birthday**, third Monday in February
- **Easter Sunday** (variable)
- **Mother's Day**, second Sunday in May
- **Armed Forces Day**, third Saturday in May
- **Memorial Day** (half-staff until noon*), the last Monday in May
- **Flag Day**, June 14
- **Independence Day**, July 4
- **Labor Day**, first Monday in September
- **Constitution Day**, September 17
- **Columbus Day**, second Monday in October
- **Navy Day**, October 27
- **Veterans Day**, November 11
- **Thanksgiving Day**, fourth Thursday in November
- **Christmas Day**, December 25
- **Other days** as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States
- **The birthdays of States** (date of admission)



Special note

- On Memorial Day display flag at half staff until noon and at full staff from noon to sunset.
- Flag is flown at half staff in mourning for designated, principal government leaders and on presidential or gubernatorial order



Displaying Flag Indoors

Post on speaker's right (observer's left) in place of honor.





**Place your right hand
over your heart...**



at the Playing of our National Anthem.



You should salute the flag as it passes--this means hand over heart by citizens and formal salute by those in military uniform. The flag should also be saluted when raised or lowered and when the leader of the event salutes.

When the National Anthem is played, citizens should stand and hold their hand over their heart beginning with the first note and holding throughout the song until the very last note. Those not in military uniform should remove their hats. Face and salute the flag unless there is none, in which case you should face and salute in the direction of the music.

Those who are not US citizens should stand at attention in respect, but are not required to salute in any way.

Place right hand over
your heart...

when the Flag is being
raised or lowered from
the flag pole

when the leader of the
event salutes





**Place right hand
over your heart...**

**when the Flag is passing by, as in a
parade or Flag ceremony .**

(Military will salute instead of placing
their hands on their hearts).





**Place right hand over your
heart...**

**when reciting the Pledge of
Allegiance to the Flag.**

"I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America
and to the republic
for which it stands,
one nation under God,
indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all."



REFERENCES

1. <http://www.usa-flag-site.org/etiquette.shtml>
2. <http://www.usflag.org/history/the15starflag.html>
3. Bateman, T. *Red, White, Blue, and Uncle Who?* (2001)
Holiday House (pgs. 5-9)
4. <http://www.usflag.org/flagetiquette.html>
5. <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/usa/flags/>
(The above is a great site for flag history, info, quizzes, booklets,
as well as for the 50 US states)
6. http://www.homeofheroes.com/hallofheroes/1st_floor/flag/1bfb_disp6.html
7. <http://www.kidsturncentral.com/holidays/memorialday.htm>
8. <http://www.infoplease.com/spot/flagetiquette1.html>