

# AMERICAN LEGION



## Flags for First Graders

Department of Massachusetts  
Americanism Committee  
2025

## **INTRODUCTION**

The American Legion's "Flags for First Graders" program is found to be popular among Legionnaires who conduct flag education programs in elementary schools. The program is responsible for educating thousands of American youths in our flag history, respect and protocol". Department of Massachusetts Americanism Committee, the internet, and through trial and error this script was developed. It can be modified to fit your needs and style. Take on the challenge, you and your Post Legionnaires and Family members won't be disappointed.

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

This script is best conducted with 3-5 people, preferably Legionnaires. Materials consist of small flags (4"x6") mounted on a stick to give to each child, The American Legion "Our Country's Flag" comic book, and a large flag (5'x8') used for the folding portion of the script. Use the school's mounted stage flag, if available, otherwise the 5'x8', or 4'x6', to point out the details of the flag. 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. All schools in Massachusetts are supposed to have an American Flag in the classroom, make a note of the condition of the flag for a possible future donation.

Thank you for investing in today's youth.

Americanism Committee, Department of Massachusetts

## 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 to you about the flag of the United States of America. We would like to introduce ourselves, tell you about veterans and our organization. A veteran is someone, boy or girl that served in the United States military . We are members of Post \_\_\_\_\_, The American Legion, where “Veterans Strengthen America”, and which is a sponsor of the “Flags for First Graders” program. I am \_\_\_\_\_, A VETERAN AND ( I served in the, US Army, Navy, Marine Corp, Air Force, Coast Guard. I’d like you to meet some fellow veterans and my friends I brought today.~~~~~. We are all about participation today, sooooo I’m going to ask a question every now and then, and we want you to try to answer them. We’re going to be talking about the Flag. “Ready for a question?”.

*Have one or two team members hold out the flag. (Use the Flag that is mounted and belongs to the School, (or the 5’x8’ flag you brought)*

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 OFFICIAL 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 on a British 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 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 249 years old”

## NOW, LET ME TELL YOU SOME THINGS THAT WE SHOULD DO AND NOT DO WITH OUR FLAG?

1. Make sure that our flag is always higher than any other flag. The Stars and Stripes should be higher than the state flag or any other country.
2. Never fly the flag upside down. The only time the flag is flown upside down, is when you or someone is in trouble.
3. Always keep the flag from touching the ground, or the water if your flying a flag from a boat..
4. Never dispose of a worn out flag by throwing it in the trash. The worn out or tattered flag should be brought to the local veterans Post or hall, they will dispose/retire the flag properly.
5. Always show respect for our American Flag. Call it Old Glory, or the Stars and Stripes, it's a symbol of our great country. Displaying our flag, or storing it, and when the time comes, retiring it, our flag deserves the best.

Does everyone know the Pledge of Allegiance?

Before we wrap things up, we are going to fold the flag and tell you a few fun facts along the way.

How many times do we fold the flag? How many stripes on the flag? How many stars in a circle in the original flag?

13 is the answer. Lots of 13's.

Each stripe represents one of the original colonies, which one represents the Massachusetts Bay Colony? The fourth stripe.

How about the last stripe?

Georgia

When is Flag Day?

June 14th

What's the rope on the flag pole called?

The Halyard

What do we call the gold ball?

The finial

What do we do when the Star Spangled Banner is playing?

Stand, face our flag, take off our hat (if wearing one), and place our right hand over our heart. We do the same when reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Well that wraps up our presentation today, we hope you enjoyed it. When you leave school today, your teacher will pass out a flag and a comic book from The American Legion to help you remember what we learned about the great flag of our Nation.

I hope to see you all at the next parade with the flag you are receiving today and waive it when you see the Veterans marching by.

Material Source: TAL Flag & Emblem [emblem.legion.org](http://emblem.legion.org)

Flags - 100.220D (Dozen)

100.220G (Gross)

Comic Book - (Our Country's Flag) 755.300 special bulk pricing available