

Create your own Flag

Objectives:

The purpose of this lesson is twofold: 1) to acquaint students with the idea of symbols; and 2) to give them the opportunity to think of what symbols might represent them and their own beliefs and values by having them create their own flag.

Talk about the United States of America

We have our own flag

What are the **colors**? What do they mean?

What are the **shapes**? What do they represent?

The flag was not just thrown together – everything had a meaning.

Different countries have their own flags.

Different states have their own flags.

The Olympics opening and closing ceremony has every country represented by first a flag.

Presidents, Generals, and other high-ranking officials often have personal flags on their official cars, representing their status or position. Betty Ford thought that the First Lady should have a flag, for her car, too. So, the President's military aide, Rick Sardo, came up with one for her: it was blue satin, with lace, braid, and red, white, and blue stars; in the center was a pair of red and white calico bloomers, in honor of her maiden name (Blower), with the words, "Don't Tread on Me" at the top and the letters, ERA at the bottom. These symbols each represented something of importance to Mrs. Ford – her name, her position as First Lady of the nation, and her heartfelt support of the Equal Rights Amendment. (We don't know if the flag was ever mounted on her car!)

Materials Required:

Construction paper, markers, crayons, pencils, rulers

Procedures:

1. Begin the lesson by discussing with students the idea of symbols—pictures or graphics or objects that represent something important. Some familiar examples might be an apple, representing teaching and learning, or the school's mascot, representing their loyalty to the school.
2. Engage students in a discussion of other symbols that represent ideas, or causes, or other things that might be important to them, individually. Then set aside some time for them to design and make their own flags out of paper.
3. Take a piece of white construction paper and fold it in half. Take a piece of yarn and place in the fold of the paper. Glue together. I would do before the lesson.
4. On the back have the students think of a name their country (i.e. Julieland, Bumbletown, etc.)
5. Decorate the flags using their favorite colors, symbols of things they like, etc.