

"FLAGS FOR 1ST GRADERS

Good *Morning/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 Forty & Eight, the organization which sponsors the "Flags for 1st Graders" program. We are also members of various Veterans organizations; American Legion, Veterans Foreign Wars...

I am *Name* a Veteran, and I served proudly in the *Military Branch of Service*. My friends will now introduce themselves.

Script # 1

Script # 2

We would like some of you to participate, so now and then we will ask a question and pick someone to provide the answer.

Now, we would like to tell you about the Flag of the United States. Have team members hold out the Flag.

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"* also known as *"The National Anthem"*

Who wrote the words of our National Anthem? *"Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812"*

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."*

Script # 2

Let's take a closer 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 are on Our Flag?

"13" = "7" RED "6" WHITE

What does the 13 stripes stand for? *The 13 original Colonies (eventually became States)*

How many Stars and Stripes were on the 1st United States Flag? *"13 Stars & 13 Stripes"*

Let's talk about the colors on Our Flag?

Blue is the color of Heaven and shows our reverence to God; *Red* is for Valor & Bravery; *White* is for Hope & Purity!

How old is the United States Flag?

"The first flag was made in 1776, so our flag is 240 years old"

History tells us that a Lady sewed the first American Flag. Who? *"Betsey Ross"*

SYMBOLISM OF OUR FLAG:

The American Flag is not the flag of a King or Queen, but the flag of nearly 300 million free people. The flag is the symbol of the United States of America. It should be treated with great respect, for the men and women who have given their lives defending our freedom. We should never let the flag touch the ground or treat it like a toy.

CERMONIAL DISPLAY OF OUR FLAG:

Who knows what to do when they see the American Flag in a parade?

"The Flag at the front of the parade, carried by an Honor Guard, is the Ceremonial Flag requiring a display of respect.

When the Flag comes into view, stand at attention, remove your cap, place your right hand over your heart, and remain until the Flag has passed from in front of you.

You may show respect for other flags in the parade if you wish. However, the Ceremonial Flag is the only one that is a requirement."

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

- Never have another country's Flag fly over Our Flag when they are displayed together.
- Never fly the Flag upside down. This is considered a distress signal, and "SOS" or a sign of extreme danger.
- Never allow Our Flag to touch the ground, or water if it is being flown on a boat;
- Never dispose of Our Flag by throwing it in the trash;
- The proper way to retire a Flag is to solemnly burn it. The worn-out Flags should be brought to a Veterans Organization (American Legion Post) and they will dispose of it properly. Note: The Boys Scouts of America at times conduct Flag Retirement Ceremonies.
- Always show Our Flag proper respect when flying it, storing it or when the time comes for properly disposing of it.

Script # 4

WRAPPING UP THE PRESENTATION:

Veterans answer a few questions...

We would like to thank you for having us come out today. Each student will be given their own American Flag, a Ruler with the Presidents, I Pledge Allegiance Coloring Book, and a Letter to your Parents letting them know each of you were presented an American Flag to learn to love it, honor it, and protect it as so many Americans have done before you.

We would like to have a volunteer join us in reciting our "Pledge of Allegiance"?

**"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!"**

Thank You and God Bless America!

Script # 5