

CONSTITUTION WEEK ACTIVITIES

Activities for Grades 3-4

1. Five Point Star

Follow written instructions in *Figure 1* to make a five-pointed star. Then read the story, *The First American Flag*.

2. Paper Chain

Make a paper chain (red, white, & blue). Print one word of the Pledge of Allegiance on each paper link and glue together. Explain that the United States is made from 50 states (individual paper links) but when connected (like this chain) we become one nation, indivisible.

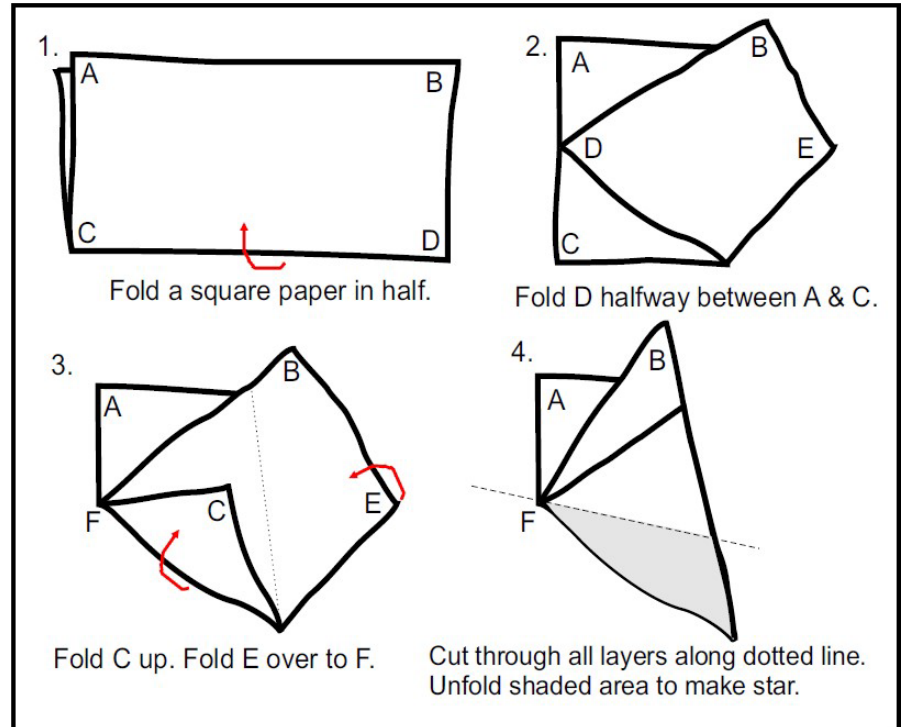


Figure 1

3. Class Book

Make a class book about the Constitutional Convention. Hand-out preprinted sentence strips to pairs of students (see *Figure 2*). Each partnership glues their strip on an 8.5" x 11" paper. Have them draw and color illustrations to match text. Put pages in chronological order.

This lesson can be modified by having students compose their own sentences.

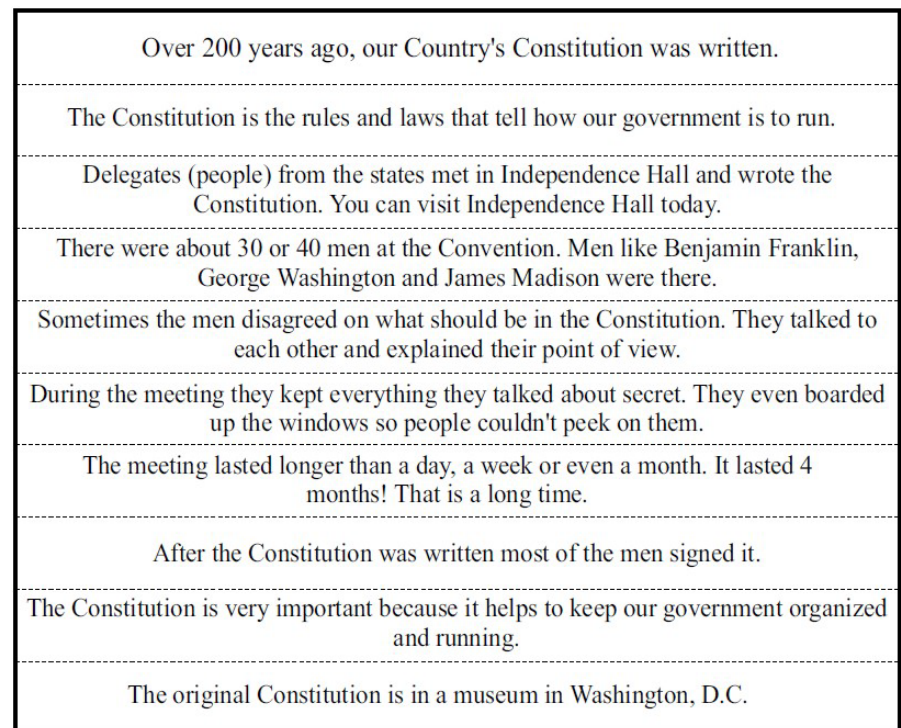


Figure 2

CONSTITUTION WEEK ACTIVITIES

Activities for Grades 3-4

THE FIRST AMERICAN FLAG

Once upon a time, a long, long time ago, there was a talented seamstress named Betsy Ross. Betsy lived in a small house in Philadelphia, which was one of the thirteen colonies that would become the United States of America.

Betsy was known for her amazing skills with a needle and thread. She could sew just about anything you could imagine. People would come from far and wide to ask her to make beautiful clothes and blankets. But Betsy's most famous creation was something that would represent the new nation being formed.

One sunny day, Betsy received a very important visitor. It was General George Washington himself! He wanted Betsy's help in making a special flag for the United States. He had a sketch of what he wanted, and he hoped that Betsy could bring it to life.

Betsy carefully studied the drawing. The flag had thirteen red and white stripes, just like the thirteen colonies, which were like different states back then. It also had a blue rectangle called the "canton" in the upper left corner. Inside the canton were thirteen stars, arranged in a circle.

Betsy got to work right away. She selected the finest red and white fabric for the stripes, and a rich blue fabric for the canton. She then cut out all the pieces and pinned them together. With her trusty needle and thread, she began to sew.

As she sewed, Betsy thought about what the flag would represent. The red stripes stood for bravery and courage. The white stripes represented purity and innocence. And the blue canton symbolized vigilance, perseverance, and justice. Betsy wanted this flag to inspire and unite the people of the new nation.

Now it was time to add the stars. Betsy knew that each star represented a state. At that time, there were thirteen states, so she carefully stitched thirteen stars onto the blue canton. She made sure they were arranged in a circle to show that the states were all equal and united.

After days of hard work, Betsy finished making the very first official flag of the United States. She proudly showed it to General Washington, and he was amazed by her craftsmanship. He knew that this flag would be a symbol of hope and freedom for generations to come.

From that day forward, Betsy Ross's flag flew high and proud, representing the United States of America. People everywhere admired its beauty and what it stood for. The stars and stripes became a powerful symbol of unity, freedom, and the American spirit.

Betsy Ross's flag has changed over the years, with more stars added as new states joined the Union. But the spirit and meaning behind it remain the same. And whenever we see the American flag waving in the breeze, we can remember Betsy Ross and her incredible talent and the story of how she created the first official flag for our great nation.