

Independence Day Lesson for Children (Ages 7-12)

TEACHER PEP TALK

The idea of freedom is an important one for children to understand. As Americans, we celebrate our freedom on July 4th, Independence Day. As believers in Christ, we can celebrate our freedom every day, because Jesus has set us free from sin and death!

SCRIPTURES

John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

LESSON PLAN

WELCOME

- Welcome each child by name.
- Introduce all workers.
- Give any necessary instructions or announcements

PRAYER

- Pray for and with the children.
- Thank Jesus and ask Him to help you learn about Him in class.
- Encourage the children to say “Amen” with you.

INTRODUCE LESSON (follow outline provided)

- USA declared its independence from British rule nearly 235 years ago.
- Americans enjoy many freedoms that people in other countries may not.
- It takes work and sacrifice to keep our country safe and free.
- Discuss people or groups who help keep our country safe and free. (Veterans, active and enlisted persons in the armed forces, first responders, statesmen, citizens, etc.)
- Discuss War of Independence (follow outline)
- Show Flag of 1776.
- Show Current US Flag and discuss meaning of following:
 - 13 stripes (7 red and 6 white), 50 stars (states)
 - Red – Courage, White – Purity, Blue – Faithfulness

BIBLE LESSON (follow outline provided)

- Jesus is the Son of God.
- He came to earth many years ago (long before America was founded!)
- Jesus came to set us free from sin and death.
- He was Courageous, Pure, and Faithful
- He came to set people FREE, not only in this country, but in every country all over the world.
- He came for all people everywhere!
- Jesus came to save us. He came to set us free!

READ BIBLE VERSE

PRAY IN CLOSING

CRAFT

SNACK

DISMISSAL HOME

LESSON INTRODUCTION

We live in the United States. The United States of America was started over 225 years ago. That seems very old. But the ideas it was started with are still important. Americans are free to live where they want, and say what they believe, and to worship God where they would like to do so. These are BIG Freedoms. Some other countries don't have those freedoms.

Today we are celebrating Independence Day: the day our country declared its independence (or freedom) from rule by others. It takes hard work and sacrifice to keep our country safe and free. Let's talk about some of the groups or people who help keep our country safe and free. (Take answers from the group. These may include: Veterans, persons in the armed forces, first responders, statesmen, citizens, etc.)

When our county started, the people then fought a great war for America. They were victorious in that fight (They won!) and they started a new country here, the United States of America. They had a new flag for their new country. It looked like this (**Show picture of 1776 flag.**) Now the flag looks a little different (**Show picture of current flag.**) Each thing in our flag means something special. The stars represent the number of states we have now (50). The stripes represent the number of states America started with (13, 7 red & 6 white). Even the colors of the flag mean special things.

RED – COURAGE

WHITE – PURITY

BLUE – FAITHFULNESS

Later we are going to make a flag just like this one. (**Show sample of craft.**)

BIBLE LESSON

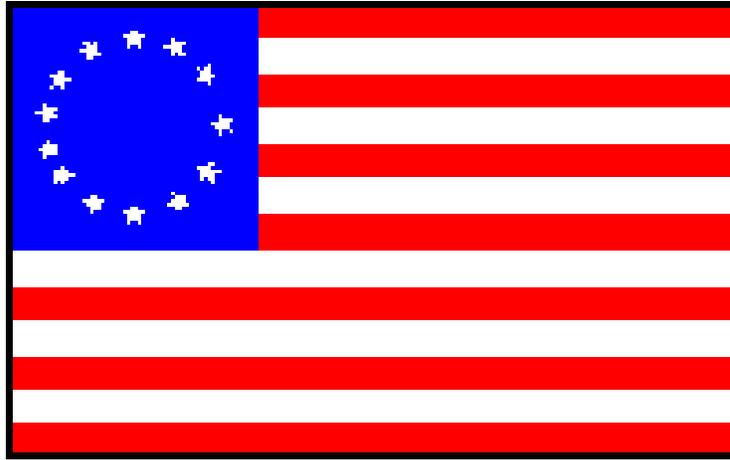
There was a man named Jesus, who was and is the Son of God, who came to earth many years ago, way back before America was started. Jesus came to set us all free. He came to set us free from sin and death. He was COURAGEOUS because He stood up to evil and did what was right. He was PURE because He was the Son of God and because He never did anything wrong. He was FAITHFUL to do what He came to do, even though it was very hard. And in the end He was victorious (He WON!) over sin and death.

HE came to set people FREE, not only in this country, but in every country all over the world. He came for all people who would believe in Him, no matter where they lived or when they lived. He came for all people everywhere!

Jesus came to save us! He came to set us free!

BIBLE VERSE

The Bible tells us: So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. John 8:36



The Betsy Ross Flag of 1776



The American Flag with 50 Stars

Craft for Independence Day

The Making of an American Flag (or “I doubt Betsy Ross did it this way!”)

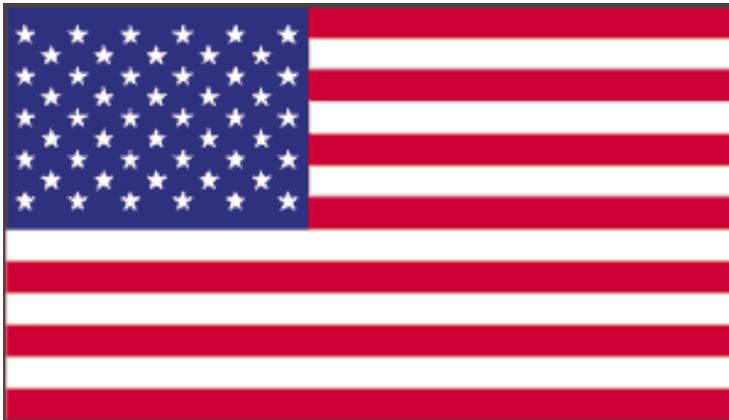
PRIOR TO CLASS:

- Cut out construction paper pieces for each child as directed below. (Using a paper cutter will help in the process, especially in cutting the stripes!)
- Obtain white star stickers (50 per child)

DURING CLASS:

- Give each child one piece of red paper, six white stripes, and one blue sheet
- Have glue available
- Lay out the stripes on the red paper – LEAVE SPACE FOR RED STRIPES ON TOP AND BOTTOM (HINT: Putting the first white stripe just under where the blue section will go helps – then just put 2 below and 3 above that stripe.)
- Glue all 6 white stripes lengthwise across the red paper
- Put glue on the back of the blue sheet
- Glue the blue sheet to the upper left corner of the red paper with the stripes.
- Use white star stickers to make the star field.
- Put child’s name on artwork.

Here is what a real US Flag looks like:



NOTE: You will HAVE TO CUT all these pieces... even the red background!

Red Section – one piece
Length 11.5” Width 6.5”

Blue Section – one piece
Length 5” Width 3.5”

White Stripes – six pieces
Length 11.5” Width 0.5”

*Suggestion – Use a paper cutter... it works better than scissors!

Hints for Sanity during Arts and Crafts

- 1.) **Glue happens.** Remember that. Stay calm. Have wet wipes available for sticky fingers. Most glue will wash out of any kid clothes’ fabric. Wipe down tables at end of craft.
- 2.) **This is art, not science.** Kids will not have their stripes straight or spaced correctly... especially the little ones. Don’t say anything.
- 3.) **How many Stars?** Some kids will have 6 stars, others will have 65. Let them put the stars on until they are happy with their artwork. Encourage them just to put the stars on the blue part. Some may want you to help them count. Count slowly and out loud with the child.