

## Today Is Flag Day | Lesson Plan

What does the American flag represent, and why is it important to honor and celebrate it?

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Students will understand the significance of the American flag and the reasons the flag is celebrated on Flag Day.

### Learning Objectives:

- Identify the colors of the American flag and explain their symbolism.
- Recognize the importance of Flag Day and its historical context.
- Demonstrate respect for the flag and understand its role as a national symbol.

### Key Vocabulary:

- **Flag Day:** A day when the American flag is celebrated on June 14.
- **Betsy Ross:** Credited with sewing the first American flag.
- **Patriotism:** Love for or devotion to one's country.
- **Symbol:** Something that stands for or represents something else.
- **Courage:** The ability to do something that frightens one; bravery.
- **Sacrifice:** Giving up something important or valued for the sake of other considerations.
- **Justice:** Fair behavior or treatment.
- **Purity:** Freedom from anything that debases, contaminates, pollutes, etc.

**Educational Standards:** CCRA.R.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.SL.4, CCRA.SL.6, CCRA.L.3

**Academic Subject Areas:** America, U.S. Holidays, American Values

### What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: Today Is Flag Day* (Click [Here](#))
- Book (optional): *Otto's Tales: Today Is Flag Day* (Purchase [Here](#))
- Coloring Page: *Otto's Tales: Today Is Flag Day* (Click [Here](#))
- American flag (or images of the flag)
- Music player and American patriotic flag songs

### Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (5-7 mins.)

1. Begin with the American flag displayed in front of the classroom.
2. Ask students what they know about the flag. Allow them to share their thoughts.
3. Introduce the key vocabulary and discuss the symbolism of the flag's colors and design.
4. Briefly explain the concept of Flag Day and why it is celebrated.



Watch and Discuss: (20 mins.)

1. Watch *Otto's Tales: Today Is Flag Day* together as a class.
2. Pause at key moments to discuss the historical figures mentioned (e.g., Betsy Ross, President Truman, etc.) and the significance of their contributions.
3. After watching, engage the students in a discussion about what they learned from the video. Focus on the symbolism of the flag, the story of Flag Day, and the values the flag represents (courage, sacrifice, justice, purity).

Wrap-Up: (15-20 mins.)

1. Briefly introduce a patriotic song like "You're a Grand Old Flag" or "The Star-Spangled Banner." Explain that the song celebrates the American flag and the values it represents. Highlight one or two key vocabulary words in the song learned during the lesson.
2. Teach the song's chorus to the students and sing it through once. Then, have the students join for the second round. Use hand motions or gestures to help reinforce the keywords or phrases.
3. Lead the students in a quick march around the classroom or a designated area while singing the song as a class.
4. After the march, gather the students and ask them to share what the flag means to them. Hand out a copy of the coloring page *Today Is Flag Day* and allow students time to color or take it home to tell family members what they learned about today.
5. Close by reinforcing the flag's symbolism of freedom, courage, and unity.
6. To assess understanding of this lesson, use the coloring page along with a simple rubric or checklist to ascertain that students can do the following:
  - Identify the colors of the flag correctly.
  - Share a fact about the flag or Flag Day.
  - Express what the American flag means and why it is important.

**Don't have time for the complete lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 mins.)**

After watching the video, distribute the coloring page and allow students to discuss their takeaways from the lesson.