

The First Independence Day in Kansas

Standards

Social Studies:

Kansas History, Government, and Social Studies (2020)

- 3.1 The student will recognize and evaluate how societies are shaped by the identities, beliefs, and practices of individuals and groups.

Others:

Objectives

Knowledge:

- Learn that Independence Day has special meaning in Kansas history.
- Understand that flags are a symbol of July 4 and the United States.

Skills:

- Story retelling

Focus Questions

1. Why is July 4th an important day in America?
2. What is special about July 4th and the Lewis and Clark expedition?
3. Why and how do you show respect for the flag?

Assessment

- Students retell the story of the first Independence Day in Kansas.

Lesson Plan Outline

A. The First Independence Day

1. Read the story "The First Independence Day in Kansas" to the class using graphics 1 & 2 and the 15-star flag to illustrate the story.
2. Have students write a newspaper article from this story. They need to address who, what, when, where, and why.

B. Flag Etiquette Activity

1. Teach flag etiquette by having students place the flag etiquette cards under the correct heading of "Do" and "Don't" on the flannel board.
2. Use the Flag Folding Instruction card to practice this skill.
3. Use the *Flag Facts* published by the American Legion for more flag information.

Trunk Materials

- Graphics 1 & 2
- Flag Etiquette activity cards
- Flannel board
- Flag
- Flag Folding Instruction card
- *Flag Facts* book



The First Independence Day in Kansas

Lewis and Clark experienced many “firsts” on their trip west. Among them was celebrating the first Fourth of July west of the Mississippi River. This event occurred on July 4, 1804, near present-day Atchison, Kansas.

On July 4, 1776, the nation had declared its independence from Great Britain. The nation was only 28 years old in 1804. Celebrating the nation’s birthday was an extremely important event to everyone in the country. It was so special to the members of the Corps of Discovery that they did several very special things that day. They fired the gun on their main ship in the morning and the evening. All members received special food and drink that day. And they held a brief ceremony wearing their military dress uniforms. Even in the middle of the wilderness, they dressed up that day. On the whole trip, they dressed up like this very few times and only for very special occasions.

Captains Lewis and Clark named two rivers in Kansas in honor of this event. The names were very appropriate. They named one “Creek Independence” and the other “4th of July 1804 Creek.”

The flag is a symbol of Independence Day. In 1804, the flag looked different than it does today. The country did not have one style of flag. Flags could have different arrangements and numbers of stars, different numbers of stripes, and even include pictures of eagles. The flag flown from the main boat had an eagle in the canton (the field of blue on the U.S. flag). The flag carried by Lewis and Clark and given to some Indian tribes contained 15 stars and 13 stripes. The country had 17 states in 1804 but the flag still had only 15 stars. Today the flag has one star for each state.

Lewis and Clark had great respect for the American flag. Showing respect for the flag is a way people display their pride in America.



Flag Etiquette Activity

Using the Flag Etiquette Activity Cards, have the class place the cards under the correct heading of “Do” and “Don’t” on the flannel board. Discuss why certain actions fall under one heading or another.

DO

- Display the flag every day, unless weather conditions can damage it.
- Display the flag from sunrise to sunset.
- Display the flag at night only if it is lighted.
- Allow the flag to hang free.
- Gather the flag as it is lowered so that it does not touch the ground.
- Stand at attention facing the flag when it is raised or lowered, passes by in a color guard, and during the national anthem.
- Salute the flag as it passes when wearing a uniform OR place your right hand over your heart when not in uniform.
- Fold the flag properly when it is not in use.

DON'T

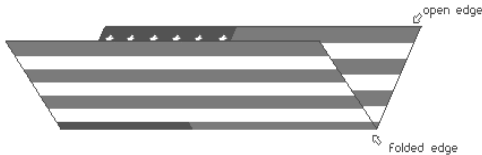
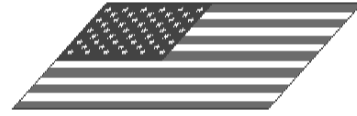
- Dip the flag to any person or thing.
- Fly the flag upside down except as a distress signal.
- Use the flag for advertising purposes.
- Mark on or attach anything to the flag.
- Use the flag as bedding, drapery, or wearing apparel.
- Use as part of any costume or athletic uniform, except as a patch on the uniforms of military personnel, firefighters, police, and members of patriotic organizations.
- Attach the flag to items that will be discarded.
- Use as a container for holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
- Burn the flag, except to properly discard one that can no longer be used.



Flag Folding Instructions

Folding the flag correctly is another way that we show our respect for the flag and pride in our nation.

1. Begin by holding the flag waist-high between two people so that its surface is parallel to the ground.



2. Fold the lower half of the stripe section lengthwise over the field of stars, holding the bottom and top edges securely.



3. Fold the flag again lengthwise with the blue field on the outside.



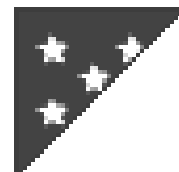
4. Make a triangular fold by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to meet the open (top) edge of the flag.



5. Turn the outer (end) point inward, parallel to the open edge, to form a second triangle.



6. The triangular folding is continued until the entire length of the flag is folded in this manner.



7. When the flag is completely folded, only a triangular blue field of stars should be visible.

