

Teacher Instructions

Raise your flag

Instructions

Students research the symbolism of flags and then apply what they have learned to create flags that make personal statements.

What you need

- A flag (country, state, local municipality, or organization) to display at the front of the classroom, and/or reference books with pictures of flags
- Miscellaneous art materials, including scissors, scraps of paper and/or cloth, paints, and glue
- Construction paper

What to do

1. Displaying one real flag, or showing an image of a flag from a reference book, discuss with students what the various colors and shapes on it stand for. The flag can be representative of a country, state, local municipality, or an organization. Lead the discussion on the reasons flags are considered important. Have students answer questions 1 and 2 on the worksheet.
2. Ask students to use the flag or the reference materials to develop a glossary of symbols for that flag on the student worksheet (question 3). Remind students that the colors used in flags are often symbolic.
3. After students have completed their research, have them design and make their own personal flags. Suggest that as they make their preliminary sketches they consider what kind of flag would best represent the kind of person each of them wants to be. Point out that they are not limited to the symbols they included in their glossaries. They can also create their own logos or emblems, use their initials, make silhouettes of themselves, and employ their favorite colors.
4. Set aside time for a Flag Day celebration for students to display and explain their personal flags to invited guests.