

FLYING THE COLORS

Program 11

Topic: American flag and Texan flags; Bald Eagle and Texan symbols.

Level of students: Grades 3-8.

Skills/knowledge addressed:

- American history
- National symbols
- Texas history
- Texan symbols
- Comparison and Contrast
- Imagination and Creativity
- Chinese history and background.

Social Studies TEKS:

4.17A: The student is expected to explain the meaning of selected patriotic symbols and landmarks of Texas;

5.18A: The student is expected to explain selected patriotic symbols and landmarks

6.17A: The student is expected to explain aspects that link or separate cultures and societies

Description-Hour Long: The students arrive and are seated. The Docents will lead a discussion covering the history of the American and Texan flags and the symbolism of the bald eagle and Texan symbols. All the information is on the next couple of pages.

After the discussion, the students will make a Friendship Kite. When decorating the kite, they are encouraged to draw the American, the Texan flags, the bald eagle and Texan symbols. Each student will be able to take a Friendship Kite home.

In the case of a 20 minute session:* Children arrive and are seated. The Docents will lead about a **5 minute discussion about the American and Texan flags, the bald eagle, and Texan symbols:

- American Flag: “The 50 Star Flag” is the 27th flag of the United States. The flag became official July 4, 1960. There are 13 red and white stripes, one for each of the original colonies. The 50 white stars in the blue corner represent each of the current 50 states that make up one nation.
- Bald Eagle: The bald eagle was chosen June 20, 1782, as the emblem of the United States of America, because of its long life, great strength and majestic looks, and also because it was then believed to exist only on this continent.
- Texan Flag: The present Lone Star Flag of Texas was adopted on January 24, 1839 as the national flag of the Republic of Texas. Texas has flown under six different national flags in its long and glorious history: Spanish, French, Mexican, Texan, Confederate, and the United States. The Texas flag consists of one vertical blue stripe and two horizontal stripes, white over red. There is also a five-point white star located in the center of the blue stripe.
- Texan Symbols: There are many symbols that express the various faces of Texan culture and heritage. These include our state song, motto, animals, plant life, foods, and leisure activities.

- Chinese Flag (optional): The Chinese national flag was adopted in September, 1949. The rectangular flag has a red field with five golden-yellow stars in the upper left corner. The red color of the flag symbolizes the spirit of the revolution. The five stars signify the unity of the people of China under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party.
- Dragon (optional): Chinese people consider themselves descendents of the dragon which is a fictitious animal combining some features of a deer, fish, tiger, lion, horse, ox, donkey, snake and vulture. Chinese people believe it represents power, dignity, luck, strength and success. Chinese emperors proclaimed they were incarnations of the real dragons to assure their superior authority.

After the discussion, the students will make a Friendship Kite. When decorating the kite, they are encouraged to draw the American and Texan flags, bald eagle, and Texan symbols. Each student will be able to take a Friendship Kite home.