



Blue Sky White Stars

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An inspiring tribute to America's most recognized symbol-celebrating our history, landscape and people and our accomplishments.

READ

Before: Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, what do you think this story is about? Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

I wonder what all those people have in common?

During: Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations. What comes to mind for them when they read each page and see the corresponding illustration and how it relates to the United States flag? Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in everyday conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words

- Old Glory – the flag of the United States
- waves – verb; to move back and forth because of the wind
- waves – noun; moving water that is raised above the main surface of an ocean or lake
- nation – an area of land that is controlled by one government; the people who live in a nation
- woven – combination of different things joined together

After: Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What does the blue on the flag represent?
- What do you think the stars represent?
- What do you think the stripes represent?
- What do the images and words on the parallel pages have in common?
- How does the book make you feel about living in America?
- What does standing proud mean to you?
- What other flags share the same colors? What flags have different colors?



DO

Grand Ol' Flag

Gather supplies to create a handheld flag and then find a local parade where you can wave it.

Materials:

- old magazines
- glue sticks
- a piece of poster board or sturdy paper
- paint stick
- white glue or glue gun (for attaching paint stick)



Tear out pages with red, white and blue areas from your old magazines. Tear the pages into smaller pieces; thumbnail sized works best. Keep your colors separated into piles of red, white and blue. On the United States flag red represents valor, blue represents justice and loyalty and white represents liberty and purity.

Mark off a rectangle in the top left corner of the piece of poster board and glue down your blue magazine pieces using the glue stick.

Mark off the 13 stripes for the rest of the flag. Using the glue stick attach the red magazine pieces for the first stripe, then a row of white pieces for the second and repeat. There are seven red stripes and six white stripes on the American flag.

Cut or tear some stars for your flag out of white magazine pieces and glue them on the blue section of your flag.

The final step before heading off to the parade is to glue the paint stirrer to the side of your flag.