

**COMMON
CORE**

1776 AMERICAN
MILESTONES

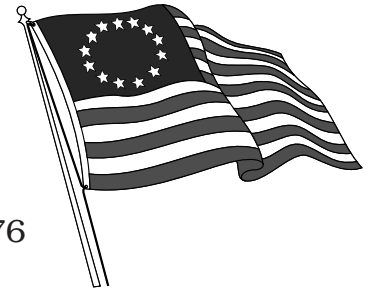
How Our Nation Was Born: The American Revolution

By Carole Marsh

1775  1781



The Stars and Stripes



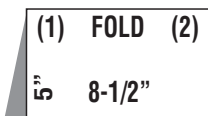
BETSY ROSS worked as a seamstress and upholsterer, carrying on her husband's upholstery business after he was killed in the American Revolution. According to legend, in 1776 she was visited by George Washington, Robert Morris, and her husband's uncle George Ross, who asked her to make a flag for the new nation based on a sketch by Washington. She is supposed also to have suggested the use of the five-pointed star rather than the six-pointed one chosen by Washington.

FRANCIS HOPKINSON was a musician, a Congressman from New Jersey, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The journals of the Continental Congress recorded debate on whether or not he should have been paid for the design of the Stars and Stripes. The debate was not on whether he designed the flag — they argued about how much and whether or not it should be shared with

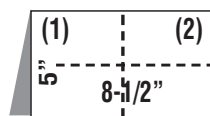
others. At any rate, Hopkinson was not paid for the design, but there is plenty of evidence that he helped with it.

FIVE-POINTED STARS!

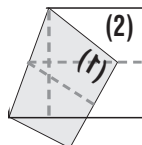
Here's how to make Betsy's five-pointed stars:



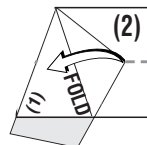
STEP 1



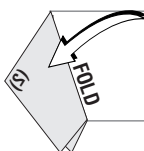
Fold an 8-1/2-by-10-inch piece of paper in half. Leave it folded and then fold it in half from top to bottom and again from side to side. When you unfold it, you should see a cross.



STEP 2



Take the upper left corner (1) and fold it from the center of the top to the crease on the horizontal line. Now take corner 1 and fold it back to the left until it lines up with the left side.



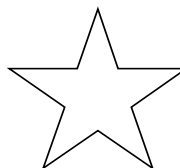
STEP 3



Take the top right corner (2) and fold it over to the left. Then bring corner 2 back to the right and fold it again. The paper now looks a little like a necktie.



STEP 4



With scissors, make a cut from corner 2 across the paper to a point about 1 inch down from the top point. When you unfold this snippet it should be a perfect five-pointed star just like Betsy made!

The story of Betsy Ross was not made public until 1870 when her grandson, William J. Canby told the story passed on through his family. Though Ross did make flags for the navy, no firm evidence supports the legend of the national flag.



Make a bunch and hang them all around!



The World Turned Upside Down!

The last major battle of the Revolutionary War was fought in 1781 at Yorktown. Lord Cornwallis had made a camp there with 7,000 troops. Attempting to save him, a British fleet of 19 ships sailed to Chesapeake Bay, where Admiral de Grasse and a French fleet of 28 ships engaged them on September 5, and turned them back. By September 28, Washington had covered Yorktown on the land-side with 17,000 French and American troops. All hope of escape gone, Cornwallis and over 7,000



British troops surrendered on October 19. Lord Cornwallis asked for his troops to be paroled and returned to England, but Washington demanded unconditional surrender. Many consider this surrender as the end of the Revolutionary War.

As the stunned British soldiers gave up their weapons, it has been said that British fife and drums played a tune called “The World Turned Upside Down.” There is much debate about whether or not this tune was actually played. However, the world had been turned upside down. The ideas of the patriots and the newly formed government seemed strange to many and would change the world forever!



Read the information above and answer the following questions.

1. How many more ships did the French fleet have than the British fleet?

2. How many more troops did Washington have than Cornwallis?

3. How many years had it taken to fight the war? (Hint: It began in 1775.)

4. How many days passed between the day the French fleet engaged the British and the day Washington covered Yorktown on the land-side?

5. How many British troops surrendered on October 19, 1781?



1783 Treaty of Paris



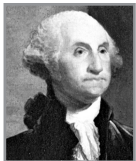
After 1778, the war went badly for England. But King George III refused to consider peace negotiations even when news of Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown reached London in November 1781. Finally in March 1782, the king accepted the fact that the colonies were lost.

Benjamin Franklin acted for America in the early stages of the negotiations with the British. He was later joined by John Adams, John Jay, and Henry Laurens. The negotiations then began to move toward a final settlement. On November 30, 1782, the preliminary peace treaty was signed, and on September 3, 1783, the treaty (called the Peace of Paris) became final.

The American Revolution lasted eight long years and many lives were lost. **Write down how you think each person felt on September 3, 1783.**



KING GEORGE III _____



GENERAL WASHINGTON _____



LORD CORNWALLIS _____



A BRITISH SOLDIER _____



AN AMERICAN SOLDIER _____





Answer Key

Page 8: 1.F; 2.O; 3.F; 4.F; 5.O; 6.O

Page 10: 1. 2 lanterns; 2. Colonists in Concord, John Hancock, and Samuel Adams; 3. Answers will vary.

Page 11: patriotic, confident, brave

Page 17: Answers will vary

Page 20: a. alligators; b. bobcat; c. frog; d. fox; e. deer; f. opossum

Page 22: 1. 9 ships; 2. 10,000 troops; 3. 6 years; 4. 23 days; 5. Over 7,000 troops

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