

# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## UNITED STATES FLAG

### LESSON 12 SESSION 01

#### 12.1 Design accepted.

Gen. George Washington, Robert Morris, and Col. George Ross were appointed a committee by the Continental Congress to produce a flag for the United States of North America. Their report was approved, and the design adopted on the 14th of June, 1777. By resolution Congress decided that the flag of the 13 United States should be 13 stripes, alternate red and white, and that the Union be 13 white stars on a blue field.

#### 12.2 Significance of elements.

In describing its design Washington said: "We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty."

The Continental Congress defined the special significance of the chosen colors to be: White, suggesting purity and innocence; red, hardness and valor; blue, vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

The stars of the Union were not merely a collection but a new constellation representing a new ideal in political and governmental affairs. The newly formed States were to develop under the control of laws, not independently nor indifferent to each other — but a Union, one and inseparable.

#### 12.3 Progress of the Flag.

After 1812 the flag moved west with the pioneers who explored the vast regions beyond the Alleghenies, the Mississippi Valley, the Rocky Mountains, to the shores of the Pacific Ocean, and the islands of the sea. Representing the United States, the flag flies today in Alaska, Hawaii, the Philippines, Porto Rico, Guam, Tutuila, Panama, and at the North Pole.

To be born under the American flag is to be the child of a king and to build a home under the Stars and Stripes is to establish a royal house. Alone of all flags it expresses the sovereignty of the people, which endures when all else passes away. Speaking with their voice, it has the sanctity of revelation. He who lives under it and is loyal to it is loyal to truth and justice everywhere.

He who lives under it and is disloyal to it is a traitor to the human race everywhere. What could be saved if the flag of the American Nation were to perish? — *President Coolidge*.

#### **12.4 Allocation of the stars.**

President William H. Taft on October 25, 1912, by Executive order designated the specific location of the stars and their definite representations. They were to be arranged in six rows of eight stars, each star to symbolize a State in the order of its ratification of the Constitution:

1. Delaware.
2. Pennsylvania.
3. New Jersey.
4. Georgia.
6. Connecticut.
6. Massachusetts.
7. Maryland.
8. South Carolina.
9. New Hampshire.
10. Virginia.
11. New York.
12. North Carolina.
13. Rhode Island.
14. Vermont.
15. Kentucky.
16. Tennessee.
17. Ohio.

18. Louisiana.
19. Indiana.
20. Mississippi.
21. Illinois.
22. Alabama.
23. Maine
24. Missouri.
25. Arkansas.
26. Michigan.
27. Florida.
28. Texas.
29. Iowa.
30. Wisconsin.
31. California.
32. Minnesota.
33. Oregon.
34. Kansas.
35. West Virginia.
36. Nevada.
37. Nebraska.
38. Colorado.
39. North Dakota.

40. South Dakota.

41. Montana.

42. Washington.

43. Idaho.

44. Wyoming.

45. Utah.

46. Oklahoma.

47. New Mexico.

48. Arizona.

49. Hawaii

50. Alaska