

Flag Day

Target audience (age): Ensino Médio

Aim: get in touch with the history of Flag Day in the USA and in Brazil and inform about Brazilian national symbols and their importance

Duration: 20-30 min.

Organization: pair work; group work

Materials: worksheets, pictures of national symbols, and slips of paper with sentences for the game

Preparation:

- The national symbols of a country are those used in official ceremonies, as well as in literature, events, physical materials or other items that officially represent the country. There are strict laws and policies around such symbols, ensuring that their integrity is maintained at all times. National symbols become very special to those who share feelings of patriotic pride.

Information about Flag Day in the USA: The idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. B. J. Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged for the students in a Fredonia (Wisconsin) public school to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of the Stars and Stripes) as "Flag Birthday". On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on the same day the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution celebrated Flag Day.

Based on <www.usflag.org/flag.day.html>. Accessed on April 17, 2014.

- Check the following videos, which explain about the American flag:
 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Ozxb0BBFfM> – Explanation about the flag
 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAA_qNoJgYU> – Explanation about the flag
 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKsrK_1hJwU> – History of the American flag

Accessed on April 17, 2014.

Information about Flag Day in Brazil: The ultimate inspiration for the Brazilian flag came from the former Brazilian Empire, which used to rule the country. The current Brazilian Republic flag was officially adopted on November 19th, 1889, four days after the Republic was proclaimed, and November 19 became the celebration of Flag Day in Brazil. Those flags which are no longer in a condition to be used are handed over to the military on this day. The Brazilian flag is flown permanently at Praça dos Três Poderes (Three Powers Plaza), in the country's capital, Brasília. It is a rule that foreign flags, if hoisted alongside the Brazilian flag, should be on the latter's right side. The flag has to be flown at half-staff when official mourning is decreed by the president.

<http://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dia_da_Bandeira> (accessed on April 17, 2014)

<<http://brazilflag.facts.co/brazilianflagof/brazilflag.php>> (accessed on April 30, 2014)

<www.ibuzzle.com/articles/brazil-flag-facts.html> (accessed on April 30, 2014)

<www.osvaldocruz.sp.gov.br/noticias/educacao/educacao-celebra-dia-da-bandeira-com-atividade-civica-dia-19/> (accessed on April 17, 2014)

National Symbols of Brazil

The National Flag

The national flag of Brazil comprises a green background with a yellow rhombus in the center. The yellow represents gold, or the wealth of Brazil, while the green symbolizes the rich foliage and rolling fields of this beautiful country. In the middle of the yellow rhombus there is a dark blue circle with white stars. This represents the night sky and each of the 27 stars stands for a state, plus one for the Federal District. Across the center of the blue sphere there is a white banner with the words "Order and Progress".

Brazilian Flag Etiquette

- Brazilian flag etiquette is very strict and it is essential that flag protocols and rules are followed correctly.
- Basic flag etiquette applies to all nations, including Brazil.
- Etiquette relating to the order of precedence for the flag when hoisted:
 - National flag
 - State flag
 - Military flag (in order of creation date)
- The United Nations uses alphabetical order when presenting a national flag. Their flag etiquette ensures that no country's flag has precedence over another country's flag.
- The national flag of Brazil should never be flown above another national flag on the same staff, as this would suggest superiority, or conversely, inferiority of one flag or nation over another.
- The Brazilian flag should never be allowed to drag on the ground.
- A tattered or faded flag of Brazil should be removed and replaced with a new one.
- Due care and consideration must be taken to ensure that the Brazilian flag is always flown the correct way.
- A Brazilian flag, when in such conditions that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning in private with all due care and respect.
- The Brazilian flag should never be fastened, displayed, used, or stored in such a manner as to permit it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.
- The Brazilian flag should never have any marks, insignias, letters, words, figures, designs, pictures, or drawings placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it.

Based on <www.vexillologymatters.org/brazilian-flag.htm>. Accessed on April 30, 2014.

Answer T (true) or F (false) according to the text on flag etiquette.

1. There are certain moments when you can drag the Brazilian flag on the ground, especially in ceremonies. **False**
2. Our flag shouldn't be flown above other countries' flags. **True**
3. It's not allowed to torn and damage the flag. One must be careful when folding it. **True**
4. No country's flag can be shown with more distinction than others. For this reason the UN uses alphabetical order to display them. **True**
5. In Brazil it is OK if you attach the flag to a mark. **False**

The National Anthem

Like the flag, the national anthem of Brazil is used at major sporting and political events, as well as at schools and other institutions. The anthem has the purpose of honoring the country and paying tribute to the flag. The Brazilian national anthem was adopted in 1922, but was composed many years before for the Brazilian military. In its original form, it was only orchestral. Then lyricist Osório Duque Estrada wrote words to be sung along with the music and the national anthem was created.

The National Anthem Etiquette

- There is no specific protocol concerning the anthem, but there is a law (5.700/71) that rules it should be treated with respect.
- People should stand up and be silent during it.
- Nobody is allowed to clap hands at the end of the anthem.
- It could be played only with instruments, no singing and without repetition.
- It is forbidden to play the national anthem with any different vocal arrangement not authorized by the president.

Answer the questions below about the Brazilian national anthem.

1. When is the Brazilian national anthem used?
It is used at major sporting and political events, as well as at schools and other institutions.
2. Why do people sing it?
It is sung to honor the country and pay tribute to the flag.
3. Is there a protocol for the national anthem in Brazil?
There is no specific protocol concerning the anthem, but there is a law (5.700/71) that rules it should be treated with respect.
4. What is the correct position to be in when you sing the anthem?
People should stand up and be silent.

5. Is it correct to clap your hands at the end of the anthem?

Nobody is allowed to clap hands at the end of the anthem.

6. Can you change the arrangement of the anthem?

It is forbidden to play the national anthem with any different vocal arrangement not authorized by the president.

The Coat of Arms



The Brazilian Coat of Arms features an intricate design of several elements. There is a green, red and yellow five-pointed star. In the center there is a blue circle, which has a tobacco plant on one side of its border and a coffee plant on the other. In the blue circle there are stars – the Southern Cross, surrounded by 27 small white stars representing each of the Brazilian states. Behind this composite image there is a multi-pointed round shape. At the bottom of the coat of arms there is a blue banner bearing the words “República Federativa do Brasil”, which translates to “Federative Republic of Brazil”, as well as the date on which the country achieved such political status (November 15, 1889).

Its use is mandatory, according to article 26 of the law 5.700/71:

- at the residence of the president of the country,
- at ministry buildings,
- at the houses of the National Congress of Brazil,
- at the Federal Senate (upper house) and Chamber of Deputies (lower house),
- at city halls and municipal chambers,
- at the Brazilian Armed Forces and at the headquarters of the Army, Navy, and Air Force,
- at fire departments,
- at the main hall in public schools, and
- at the official stationary, invitations, or any other federal publication.

Based on <www.brazil.org.za/national-symbols.html#.U2DbIfdTo3M>. Accessed on April 30, 2014.

The National Seal of Brazil



The national seal of Brazil is displayed on several official documents, such as graduation diplomas, consular and diplomatic papers, military conscription forms etc. Most documents, however, feature the national coat of arms instead of the national seal.

The design of the national seal is also represented on the reverse of the great seal of Brazil (that bears the image of the country's coat of arms on the obverse), and is used by the president (along with his/her signature) to authenticate solemn documents, such as instruments of ratification of international treaties.

The wax or printed impression of the national seal is also used to authenticate the original version of laws promulgated by the president. The national seal, along with the nation's flag, anthem and coat of arms, is officially recognized as a national symbol since the Brazilian Republic was formed; its appearance and design is regulated by law.

Based on <<http://peperonity.com/go/sites/mview/great.brazil/42696660>>. Accessed on May 12, 2014.

Procedures:

- Write the word *flag* on the board and ask students if they know what it represents.
- Ask students if they can draw the Brazilian and the American flags and ask them to describe what they look like.
- Ask questions about the American flag, such as the meaning of the stars, stripes, and colors.

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Red | Value and bravery |
| White | Purity, innocence |
| Blue | Color of the Chief (the broad band above the stripes) – vigilance, perseverance, justice |
| Stars | Heavens |
| Stripes | Rays of light from the sun |

- Provide some information about Flag Day in the USA and ask students what they know about the Brazilian Flag Day, providing some information on it as well.
- Divide students in pairs.
- Hand in the worksheets and have them read the texts and do tasks 1 and 2.
- Correct the worksheet (tasks 1 and 2).
- Ask students if they know two other national symbols from Brazil. Explain there's the coat of arms and the national seal of Brazil and tell them when they are celebrated in Brazil and in the USA: June 14 (American Flag Day), November 19 (Brazilian Flag Day), and September 18 (Brazilian National Symbols Day).
- Divide students in groups.
- Provide each group with the sets of slips of paper with sentences about the coat of arms and the national seal of Brazil mixed up.
- Tell students they have five minutes to separate the sentences that refer to the coat of arms and those that refer to the national seal of Brazil.
- Correct the task and show students the symbols.
- Discuss the importance of the symbols in Brazil and in the USA, comparing attitudes and behaviors.

Complete the chart about the celebration dates according to the information provided by your teacher.

| American Flag Day | Brazilian Flag Day | Brazilian National Symbols Day |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| June 14 | November 19 | September 18 |

Wrap-up:

- **Option 1:** Research about coat of arms seals in other countries. Name some examples and describe them. Suggested link: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallery_of_country_coats_of_arms> (accessed on May 12, 2014).
- **Option 2:** Research about countries' national animals. Suggested link: <www.animals-zone.com/national-animals-of-countries-a-photographic-list> (accessed on May 12, 2014).

Slips – Coat of Arms

There is a green, red and yellow five-pointed star. In the center there is a blue circle, which has a tobacco plant on one side of its border and a coffee plant on the other.

In the blue circle there are stars – the Southern Cross, surrounded by 27 small white stars representing each of the Brazilian states.

Behind this composite image there is a multi-pointed round shape. At the bottom there is a blue banner bearing the words “República Federativa do Brasil”, which translates to “Federative Republic of Brazil”, as well as the date on which it achieved such political status (November 15, 1889).

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Its use is also mandatory:

- at city halls and municipal chambers,
- at the Brazilian Armed Forces and at the headquarters of the Army, Navy , and Air Force,
- at fire departments,
- at the main hall in public schools, and
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Name _____ Date ____/____/____

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