

Flag Day

Target audience (age): Ensino Fundamental 2

Aim: get in touch with the history of Flag Day in the USA and in Brazil and the flag ceremony in Brazil

Duration: 20-30 min.

Organization: group work

Materials: worksheet, colored pencils, and paper

Preparation:

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

Procedures:

- Write the word *flag* on the board and ask students what they think its purpose is.
- Divide students into groups and hand them the worksheet.
- Ask them to discuss the meaning of the symbols and colors of the American and Brazilian flags and fill in the charts.

American flag

Red	Value and bravery
White	Purity, innocence
Blue	Color of the chief – vigilance, perseverance, justice
Stars	Heavens
Stripes	Rays of light from the sun

Brazilian flag

Green	Rich foliage, rolling fields
Yellow	Gold, wealth of Brazil
Dark blue	Night sky
27 white stars	27 states
Individual star	Federal District
Banner	Words "Order and Progress"

- Correct the activity with the whole class.
- Have students complete the sentences using *must* or *mustn't* according to the text on Brazilian flag etiquette.

Brazilian Flag Etiquette

Basic flag etiquette applies to all nations, including Brazil.

- Etiquette relating to the order of precedence for the flag:
 - 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.

Complete with *must* or *mustn't*.

Answer Key

The Brazilian flag	mustn't	be dragged on the ground.
Our flag	mustn't	be damaged.
The Brazilian flag	must	be flown the correct way.
A faded national flag	must	be removed and replaced with a new one.
Our flag	mustn't	be attached to any word or figure.
The United Nations	must	present the flags in alphabetical order.

- Divide students into groups and have them put the sentences about the Flag Burning Ceremony in the correct order. Then correct the activity.

Answer Key:

Article 32 of the Brazilian flag law says, "Flags in a bad state should be delivered to any military unit to be incinerated on Flag Day [November 19], according to the special ceremonial procedure." The Armed Forces Regulation on Honors, Salutes, Signs of Respect, and Military Ceremonial, from August 8, 2000, sets out this ceremonial procedure in article 162:

- The flags to be incinerated are deposited on a pyre or in a metal receptacle located near the flagpole where the Flag Day flag-hoisting ceremony is to take place [a special ceremonial hoisting of the flag at noon before the assembled troops] and soaked with alcohol.
- The commander carries out the reading of the Order of the Day, setting out the significance of the day and the ceremonies.
- After the reading, a party including the oldest member of the unit sets fire to the flags.
- The flags having been incinerated, the ceremony proceeds with the singing of the "Hymn to the Flag". In the navy, the singing is preceded by a 21-gun salute.
- The ashes are placed in an urn and buried at an appropriate location on the military post or cast into the sea, in the case of a ship. Apparently, state military police units (which are similar to a gendarmerie, but under state, rather than federal, authority) also conduct this ceremony.

Based on <https://flagspot.net/flags/br_day.html>. Accessed on April 30, 2014.

- If you have internet access, show students the Burning Ceremony: <www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKYI6Ssc86s> (accessed on April 30, 2014).

Wrap-up:

- Have students design a class flag. They should discuss what is important about their class and what they think is more essential to represent in the flag. Ask each group to present their work to the class.

Name _____ Date ___/___/___

Complete the charts about the flags.

Brazilian flag

Green	
Yellow	
Dark blue	
27 white stars	
Individual star	
Banner	

American flag

Red	
White	
Blue	
Stars	
Stripes	

Read the text and complete the activity.

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The Brazilian flag		be flown the correct way.
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Our flag		be attached to any word or figure.
The United Nations		present the flags in alphabetical order.

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Put the sentences about the Burning Flag Ceremony in the correct order.

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