



## **Discussion Guide for The Story of Our Flag**

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Use these questions after listening to each section of the audiobook to promote further discussion and understanding of the topics.

### **Section One**

What is an “emblem”? Look up the word in a dictionary if you aren't sure.

How far back in history has man used emblems and flags?

What was expected of the flag bearer during a battle?

Did native Americans have flags/emblems before European settlers came to America? Can you describe any of these?

The Norsemen had a banner with a raven on it. What did that symbolize?

Columbus had two flags with him when he found the “new world”. What were they?

Can you tell me about any other early flags were brought to the “new world” by early explorers?

## **Section Two**

From 1765 to 1777, flags of many kinds made their appearance in different sections of our country. Why were they created?

What was a “liberty pole”?

Why do you think the rattlesnake become a favorite device on flags flown by colonists?

What other pictures or words appeared on these early colonial flags?

Many early flags used the number “13”, by showing thirteen stripes or stars or arrows. Why was the number “13” used on these flags?

Name two famous men who were on the congressional committee to design the new American flag.

## **Section Three**

What is the significance of the date June 14, 1777?  
Do we still celebrate this date today? How?

According to tradition, who did General George Washington retain to design the first “official” flag?

Why were the stars originally arranged in the form of a circle?

## **Section Four**

Who wrote “The Star Spangled Banner”? What were the circumstances that caused him to write this poem.

How many stars and stripes did the flag have from 1795 to 1818? Why?

What did congress decide in 1818 to help standardize the appearance of the flag? Was there still some confusion over the actual look of the flag? Why?

## **Section Five**

What is the story of the original “Old Glory”?

Are there other flags used by the United States government? Give some examples.

Should Americans love and respect their flag? Why? What does our flag stand for?

## **Further Resources**

[Betsy Ross & The Flag](#)

<http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagfact.html>

[Flag Rules & Regulations \(interesting site!\)](#)