

Section 6: The American Flag in Elizabeth Seton's time

FLAG DATES

July 4, 1776

The Declaration of Independence was approved.

July 14, 1777

Congress passed a law making the stars and stripes America's official flag: "...resolved, that the flag of the United States be Thirteen stripes alternate red and white, that the union be thirteen stars white on a blue field representing a new constellation."

May 1, 1795

The 15-star, 15-stripe flag was authorized. This was the only flag to have more than 13 stripes. This flag was used until July 4, 1818.

Sept. 13, 1814

Francis Scott Key wrote "*The Star Spangled Banner*" after the British attack on Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland. Francis Scott Key is buried in nearby Mount Olivet Cemetery in Frederick, Maryland.

April 13, 1818

The Flag Act of 1818 was passed. It specified 13 stripes and a star for each state.

ACTIVITIES

1. What did the flag look like when Mother Seton was living?
2. Why are flags important to countries?
3. How many flags did Mother Seton live under?
4. What is a symbol? Explain the symbolism of the United States flag.
5. Explain the symbolism of the flags of two other countries.
6. List three places where the United States flag flies today.
7. How do we show respect for the flag?
8. Design a flag to represent you and your own identity. Include symbols of something important in your life or from your family's traditions.
9. With your classmates, make a joint flag to represent your class, incorporating symbols into a design.

The First American Flag

