Dear Educators,

Flag Day, celebrated every June 14, celebrates the adoption of the United States flag. A symbol of unity and national pride, an American flag appears in virtually every classroom in the nation. This special Grammar Gallery lesson puts the spotlight on the Star-Spangled Banner and also gives students a chance to practice using the simple past tense. Happy June!

Sincerely,
The Grammar Gallery Team

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Flag Day Facts

The Second Continental Congress officially adopted the American flag on June 14, 1777.

President Woodrow Wilson established June 14 as Flag Day in 1916. In 1949, Congress established National Flag Day, but Flag Day is not a federal holiday.

The oldest continuing Flag Day parade is held in Fairfield, Washington. It began in the early 1900s. Quincy, Massachusetts has also held an annual Flag Day parade since 1952. The largest Flag Day parade is held in Troy, New York. Around 50,000 people usually attend.

The week of June 14 is "National Flag Week." During this week, Americans are asked to fly the American flag. The flag is also displayed on all government buildings during this week.
### Simple Past Tense Verbs

The simple past tense is a verb tense that tells you an action or condition happened in the past—the time before now. We use the simple past tense to express an action or condition that began and ended in the past. We follow rules when we use regular verbs in the past tense. With many regular verbs, we add –ed or –d to the end of the base verb. Irregular verbs do not follow any rules.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Examples with Regular Verbs</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Second Continental Congress <strong>adopted</strong> the American flag on June 14, 1777.</td>
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<td>Robert Heft <strong>designed</strong> the current version of the U.S. flag in 1958.</td>
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<td>In 1969, astronaut Neil Armstrong <strong>placed</strong> the American flag on the moon.</td>
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In 1776, a woman named Betsy Ross made the first American flag.

The first American flag had 13 stars, representing the 13 British colonies that fought for and won independence.

In 1814, Francis Scott Key wrote “The Star-Spangled Banner,” a poem about the American flag.

In 1959, Hawaii became the 50th state, bringing the total number of stars on the flag to 50.
FLAG DAY LESSON

DIRECTIONS: Create a sentence about each picture. Write each sentence in the simple past tense. Be creative!

Example:

We learned about the bald eagle and American flag, two American symbols.
140th US Flag Day poster. 1777-1917. The birthday of the stars and stripes, June 14th, 1917. 'Tis the Star Spangled Banner, oh, long may it wave, o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!" Library of Congress description: "Poster showing a man raising the American flag, with a minuteman cheering and an eagle flying above." Library of Congress digital ID cph.3g06262
FLAG DAY LESSON

DIRECTIONS: Write a sentence to go with each picture. Write each sentence in the simple past tense.

Example:

The soldier saluted the American flag.

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