

Lesson Plan

Objectives

- Students will be able to explain the reasoning behind the variety of symbols, animals, shapes, and colors seen on a wide variety of flags.
- Presidential/patriotism tie in: As you look at the symbolism within each flag encourage your students to think about their ideal world and what they would like to have in it.
 - How are their ideals different or similar to the 'official' flags they are seeing?

Introduction

- Ask students what they know about flags and their purpose.
- Next, share a variety of flags and discuss briefly what you see on the flags together and ask the students if they can guess why so many of the flags use similar symbols and shapes.
 - We have gathered a wide variety of books about flags from the TCCL catalog [HERE](#) that we feel would be ideal.
 - (<https://tinyurl.com/y2qde445>)
- Then, discuss color theory as it pertains to human perception of colors.
 - Here is a quick overview of Color Theory
 - Overview of theory [HERE](#) (<https://tinyurl.com/yyvxs4aq>)
 - classroom graphics resource available [HERE](#) (<https://tinyurl.com/yx8oxw4>)

Opening Activity

- Allow students to browse the flags alone or in groups and write down what elements they found most interesting and analyze what they believe to be the intended message based on color theory and symbolism.
 - NOTE: this would be a great time to look at Native American Flags as they are often more intricate, but still similar in their themes.
- Then allow students to share their findings with the class.

Main Lesson

- Share more flags with the students with a focus on helping them to understand what is being depicted on the flags based on symbolism and color theory and any other concepts or ideas that you want to focus on.

Main Activity

- Students will create their own flag based on the teacher's guidelines.
 - Suggested guidelines: Students create a flag for either a fictional or real place that includes colors, shapes, animals, or ideas that they feel represent them or their chosen location.

Lesson Plan

- Once finished, the students will share their flag and explain why they chose those elements and colors, they will also answer questions from their peers and teacher.
- This would also be a good place to add a writing prompt either about their flag or the place it represents.
- Remember, this is also a great time to encourage students to think about their ideal world and what they would like to have in it.
 - Some students may have video games for all, while others feature protection for endangered animals, green initiatives, or human rights as a priority.