



## Overview

### Family Activity

- ☆ **Family or Neighborhood Parade:** Weave red, white, and blue crepe paper through the wheel spokes of your bicycles. Then tie red, white, and blue balloons, streamers, or ribbons to the handlebars. To make a float, decorate paper plates in red, white, and blue to adhere to the sides of a wagon. Then tie tin cans and tin pie plates to the back. Make drums out of boxes and shakers out of empty plastic water bottles filled with rice (lids taped or glued down). At the end of the parade, make balloon fireworks by pre-filling balloons with confetti, inflating them, and then popping them with sharpened pencils. Map out a route and have fun celebrating together. (*Art and History*)

### Pre-kindergarten – Early Elementary Activities

- ☆ **Red, White, and Blue Skewers:** Create unique patterns by alternating blueberries, strawberries or cherries, and banana slices or white cheddar cheese on skewers. (*Math*)
- ☆ **American Flag Project:** Create an American flag to display while reviewing math concepts such as shapes, counting, and patterning skills. (*Art and Math*) ➔ See Activity Guide | Page 2-4
- ☆ **Patriotic Songs:** Sing songs such as “Yankee Doodle”, “You’re a Grand Old Flag”, “America the Beautiful”, “The Star-Spangled Banner”, or “God Bless America”. Find the lyrics and more ideas for teaching patriotic songs at <http://www.usa-flag-site.org/song-lyrics/>. Encourage your child to add motions and instruments. The songs he learns could also be incorporated into the family parade activity. (*Music*)

### Elementary Activities

- ☆ **Patriotic Scavenger Hunt:** Send your child on a scavenger hunt around the house, yard, neighborhood, or park for Fourth of July themed items. A list is provided to get them started. Feel free to add to it! (*Social Studies*) ➔ See Activity Guide | Page 5
- ☆ **Flags around the World:** Learn about the flags from other countries. Images of flags can be found at <https://www.countries-of-the-world.com/flags-of-the-world.html> Encourage your child to look for flags that are similar to America’s flag or to point out ones that have interesting symbols and designs. As an extension, research what the symbols and colors represent. (*Social Studies*)
- ☆ **Lawn Stars:** Cut out a large star stencil from poster board. Place the stencil on the grass. Sift flour, corn starch, or baby powder inside the stencil. Remove stencil to see the stars. To create patterns, he can cut out stars of different sizes to display and arrange. (*Math and Social Studies*)

### Upper Elementary Activities

- ☆ **Declaration of Independence:** Teach your child about who signed the Declaration, why they did so, and some important facts about the signers. To get started, look up the Declaration of Independence at [http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration\\_transcript.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_transcript.html) (*History*)  
  
You can also use this helpful site that has translated the words into a kid-friendly version.  
<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/northamerica/after1500/government/declaration.htm> (*History*)
- ☆ **Write to the President:** Have your child contact the White House. Topics may include the environment, youth activities, education, or a new idea for a national holiday. The correspondence will most likely be read by a White House secretary, who may refer it to the president. No matter who reads it, however, your child should receive a reply. He can choose to write a letter, send an email, or make a phone call. For specific details about how to correspond with the White House, visit <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/write-or-call> (*Language Arts*)
- ☆ **Interact with a Historic American Flag:** Visit the National Museum of Natural History’s activity, found at <http://amhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/>, and explore features of the American flag from Fort McHenry, learn about its history, and about how it inspired Francis Scott Key to write the national anthem. (*History*)

## Synopsis

- ☆ Create an American flag to display while reviewing math concepts such as shapes, counting, and patterns.

## Materials

- ☆ Picture of a current American flag (provided on page 4)
- ☆ U.S. Map
- ☆ 1 sheet of red construction paper with pre-drawn stripes
- ☆ 1 sheet of blue construction paper with a pre-drawn rectangle
- ☆ 50 star stickers or white paint
- ☆ Scissors
- ☆ Glue

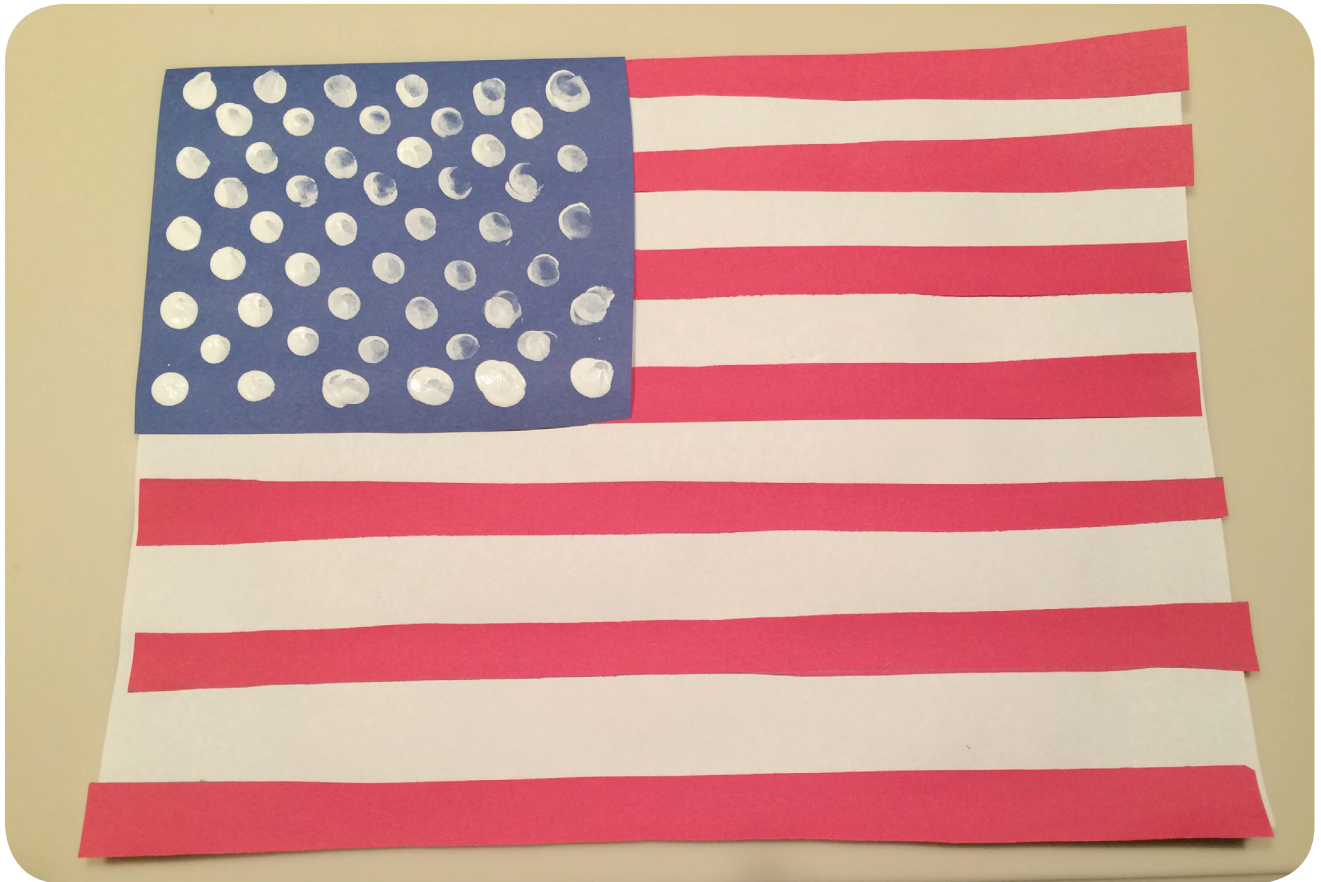
## Directions

1. Have your child use his finger to trace along the long and short sides of the picture of the American flag. Ask him to identify the shape of the flag.
2. Discuss that red, white, and blue are the national colors.
3. Have your camper count and observe the stripes.
  - ▶ How many stripes are there in all?
  - ▶ How many are red?
  - ▶ How many are white?
  - ▶ What shape are the stripes?
  - ▶ How many different sizes of rectangles can you find?
  - ▶ Optional: Explain that the stripes represent the original thirteen colonies.
4. Ask your child to identify the shape of the blue area (rectangle). Explain that this space is called the canton. Ask him to identify the shapes inside (stars). Count the stars together. Ask if he can find the pattern in which the stars are arranged (alternating rows of 6 stars and 5 stars). Tell him that the stars represent the 50 states that make up our country. Together, identify the state you live in and pin it on Google Maps.
5. Have your child cut out seven red stripes.
6. Arrange the stripes on the white construction paper to show alternating spaces of red and white. Then glue the stripes to the white paper.





7. Have your child cut out a blue rectangle.
8. Glue the rectangle in the upper-left corner of the white construction paper (it will cover some of the red stripes).
9. Have your child count the star stickers and place them inside the blue rectangle (if possible in alternating rows of 6 and then 5). Alternatively, he can dip his finger in white paint and make "finger paint stars" instead.
10. When finished, take a picture and display the flag for the Fourth of July.



Provided American flag





## Synopsis

- ☆ Send your child on a scavenger hunt around the house, yard, neighborhood, or park for Fourth of July themed items.
  - ☆ Check off the star next to the items listed below once the item has been found.
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## General Ideas for Scavenger Hunt Items

- ☆ A nickel (in honor of Thomas Jefferson, who drafted the Declaration of Independence)
  - ☆ Miniature American flags
  - ☆ One dollar bill (for the first president, George Washington)
  - ☆ Flag sticker
  - ☆ Hot dog bun
  - ☆ Map of the United States
  - ☆ Pinwheel
  - ☆ Sparkler
  - ☆ Listing for local holiday events
  - ☆ Red, white, or blue balloon (inflated or deflated)
  - ☆ An image of an eagle
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## Red, White, and Blue Ideas for Scavenger Hunt Items

### Red Items:

- ☆ T-Shirt
- ☆ Blanket
- ☆ Playing card
- ☆ Paper clip
- ☆ Candle
- ☆ Piece of fruit

### White Items:

- ☆ Soap
- ☆ Crayon
- ☆ Stuffed Animal
- ☆ Napkin
- ☆ Sticky label
- ☆ Sunscreen
- ☆ Mug

### Blue Items:

- ☆ Towel
- ☆ Sock
- ☆ Construction paper
- ☆ Hat
- ☆ Toy
- ☆ Sticky note
- ☆ Toothbrush