

CREATE A CLASSROOM FLAG

Learning Objective(s): Students will:

1. Discover the symbolism of various flag colors
2. Create a flag using the symbolic colors and figures

TEKS: SS 4.16A, 22D, 5.17A, 25D; LA 4.28A, 5.28A

Materials Needed: Poster or book showing many flags, children's resources on flags, colored paper, glue, scissors, white construction paper

Vocabulary: symbolic, bravery, loyalty

Teaching Strategy:

1. Begin discussion of the American flag by reviewing with the students what the stars and stripes represent. Ask students to find out what the colors represent, if they do not know. Children's books or electronic sources could be utilized. (Red=bravery, blue=loyalty, white=strength)
2. Review the same information about the Texas flag.
3. Notice on a poster or in books the many colors and symbols used in flags throughout the world. Notice which colors or symbols are not often used. Ask students to notice what the most popular color is and analyze why. Note, also that very few flags have words on them, and analyze the reason for that.
4. Discuss the probable symbolism of the different colors and figures on flags.
5. Divide students into groups of 3. Ask students to analyze what values would best describe their class (or school). Possible responses might include *friendliness, honesty, fairness, hard working, creative, or intelligence.*
6. Each group of students will design a classroom flag based on the values discussed. Each flag will display colors and/or symbols that best describe the class. Students will plan their flag by sketching it on notebook paper.
7. Flags will be constructed out of colored paper, beginning with a large white piece of construction paper. Stripes and symbols will be cut out of colored paper and glued to the white background. Encourage students to limit words to only a few, preferring rather to use simple symbols.
8. All flags will be displayed, and the groups of students will tell about their class flag, describing why they chose the colors and symbols included on their flag.

Variation: Students could create a flag representing themselves, instead of the class.