



## THE U.S. FLAG CODE: SORTING IT OUT!

**Learning Objectives:** The students will...

1. Identify the flag of the United States as an important symbol of our country that contributes to our national identity.
2. Become aware of some of the flag guidelines in the Federal Flag Code.
3. Develop a deeper respect for the United States Flag.
4. Enhance their critical thinking skills by categorizing information about the flag.

**TEKS:** K.10A, K.14C, K.15A, 1.14A, 1.17C, 1.18A, 2.14C, 2.14D, 2.18D, 2.19A

**Materials Needed:** One set of U. S. Flag Code Sort Cards (kindergarten and first grade only), two Hula Hoops or two long pieces of yarn for forming two large circles (kindergarten and first grade only), multiple sets of U. S. Flag Code Sort Cards (second grade only).

**Vocabulary:** code, colonies, field, justice, purity, respect, unveiling

### Teaching Strategy:

1. Display a United States Flag and review the parts of the flag.
  - a. Colors: There are three colors on the flag—red, white, and blue. Red stands for courage (bravery); white stands for purity; and blue stands for justice (fairness).
  - b. Stars: There are 50 white stars on the flag. There is a star on the flag for each state. The stars are on a rectangular field of blue.
  - c. Stripes: There are thirteen stripes on the flag: seven red stripes and six white stripes. The stripes stand for the 13 original colonies.
2. Explain that there are no laws about how the flag should be treated, but there is a Federal Flag Code. This code has been developed over many years and serves as a guide for all of us to follow. It states the correct way to display, honor, and care for our nation's flag.
3. Tell students that the Federal Flag Code states that during the Pledge of Allegiance people should stand at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart, and that men not in uniform should remove their hats.
4. Discuss why people should show respect for the flag. Remind students that many people have sacrificed their lives to protect our flag and the freedom it represents.
5. Kindergarten and First Grade Strategy
  - a. Place two Hula Hoops side-by-side on the floor. (Option: Use two long pieces of yarn or rope and form two large circles on the floor.)
  - b. Have students sit around the two circles. Give each student, or pair of students, a U. S. Flag Code Sort Card. Tell students that their card contains a rule regarding the U.S. Flag.
  - c. One at a time, students should place their card in the left circle if the information is something that *should* be done with the flag and the right circle if the statement is something that *should not* be done with the flag.
6. Second Grade Strategy
  - a. Divide the class into groups of two to four and give each group a set of Flag Code Sort Cards. Explain that the sort cards contain information about the flag that is listed in the U.S. Flag Code. Students should sort the cards according to whether the information states what *should* be done with the U.S. Flag or *should not* be done with the flag.

7. After groups have sorted the cards, debrief the activity by reviewing each of the statements on the sort cards and discussing the correct categorization and the possible reason for each rule.
8. Conclude the lesson by having students complete the following sentence stem: "The flag makes me feel \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_."

**Extension for Gifted/Talented:**

Have students imagine that they have been chosen to write a law pertaining to the U.S. Flag and that everyone would have to obey it. Student should defend the reason this law is needed.

## U. S. FLAG CODE SORT CARDS ANSWER KEY

### The U. S. Flag should:

Be raised quickly, but lowered at a slow pace.

Be destroyed in an honorable way, preferably by burning, when the flag becomes worn, torn, or faded.

Be folded in a triangular shape.

Be displayed near voting places on Election Day.

Be displayed from sunrise to sunset on buildings and flagpoles.

Be repaired, washed, or dry-cleaned.

Be flown at half-staff out of respect for a leading citizen who has died.

Be at the top of the flagpole when flags of states, cities, or organizations are flown on the same pole.

Be displayed every day at public places such as schools and fire departments.

### The U. S. Flag should not:

Be allowed to touch anything beneath it such as the ground, furniture, floor, or water.

Be flown upside down (unless there is an emergency).

Be used as clothing, bedding, or curtains.

Have words, letters, designs, pictures, or drawings placed on it.

Be used as a covering in the unveiling of a statue or monument.

Be fastened or tied back.

Be displayed 24 hours a day (unless there is light shining on it during the night).

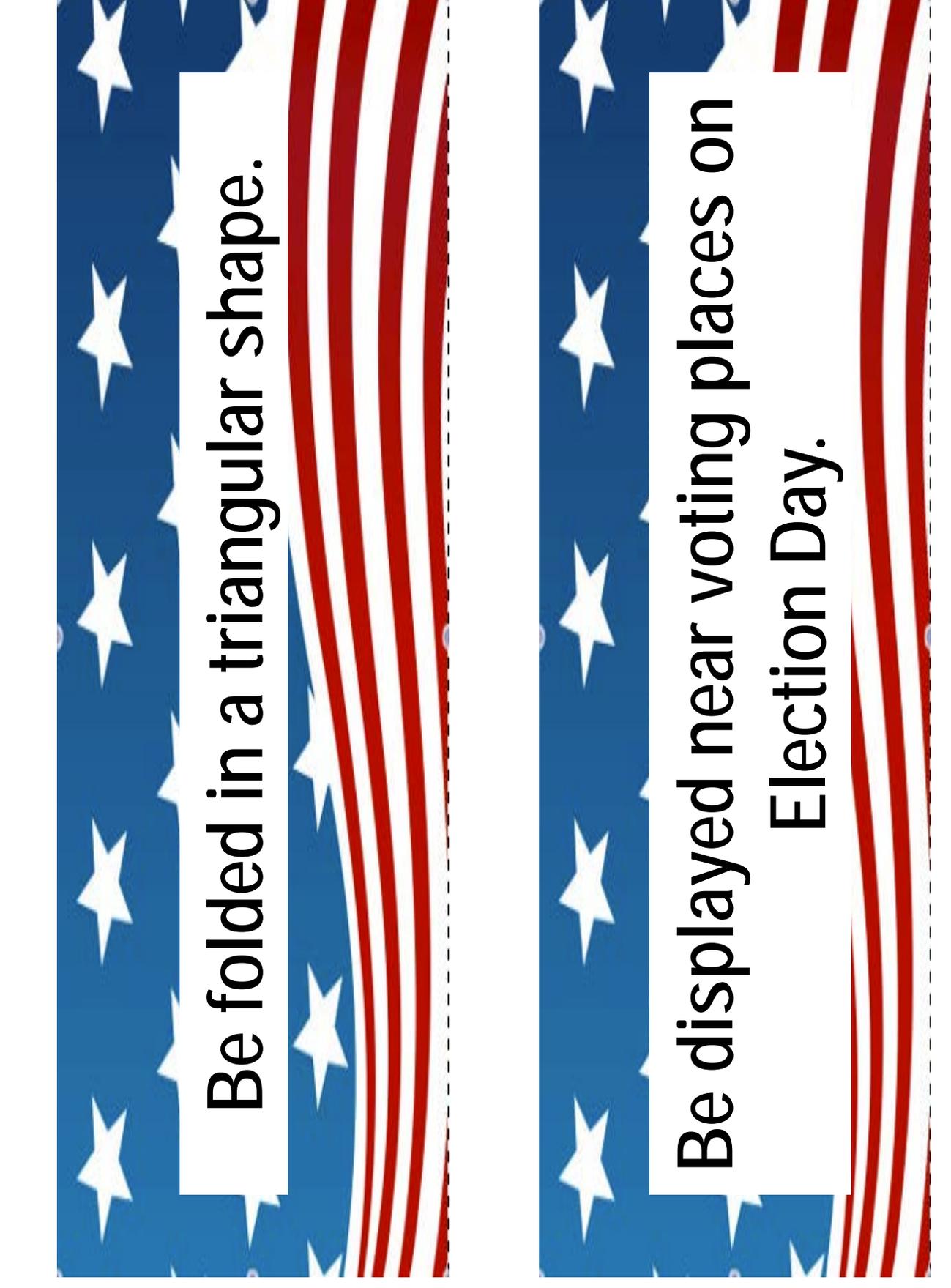
Be displayed on days that there is bad weather (unless the flag is an all-weather flag).

Be printed on things that will be thrown away such as paper plates or napkins.

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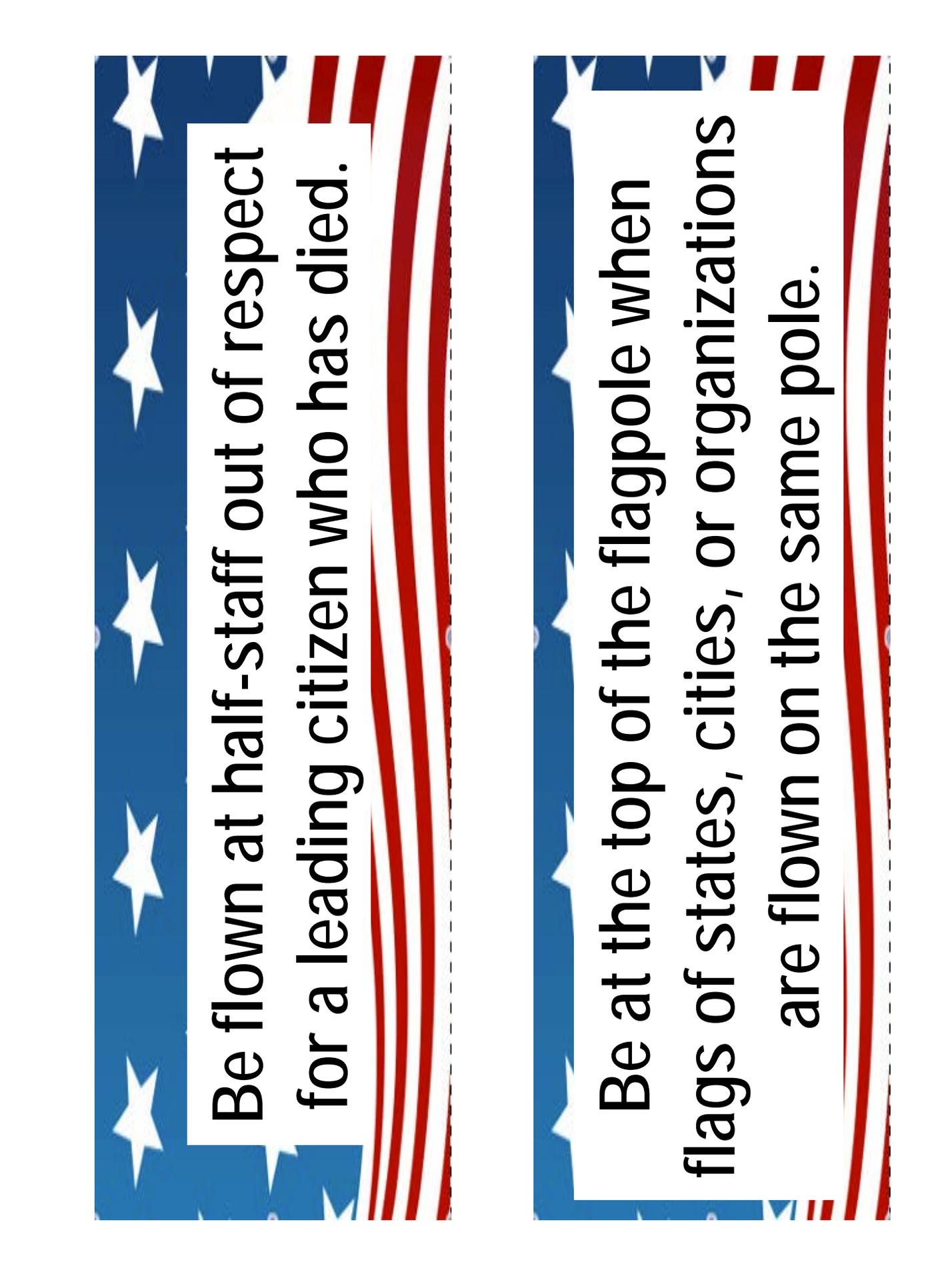
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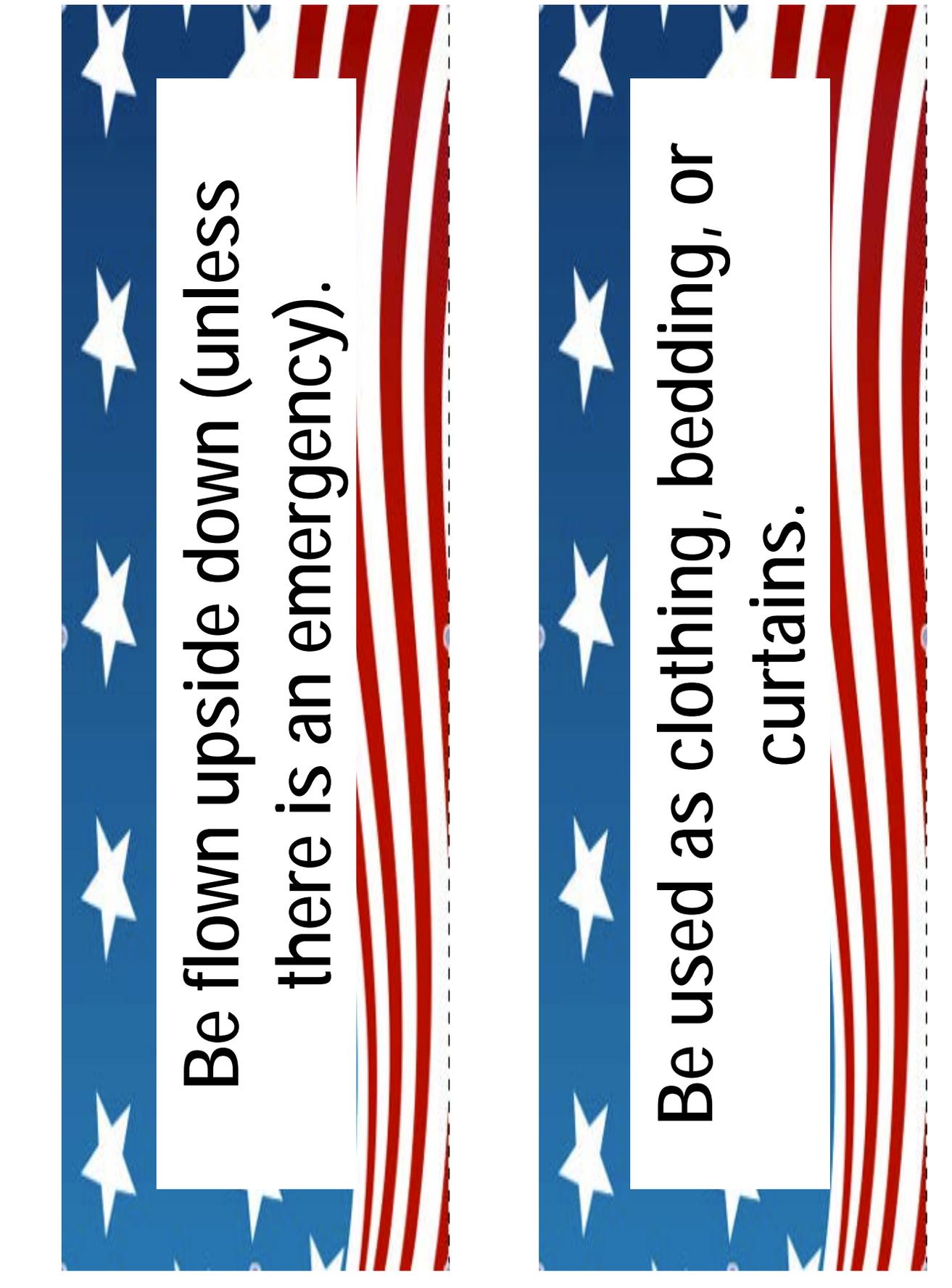


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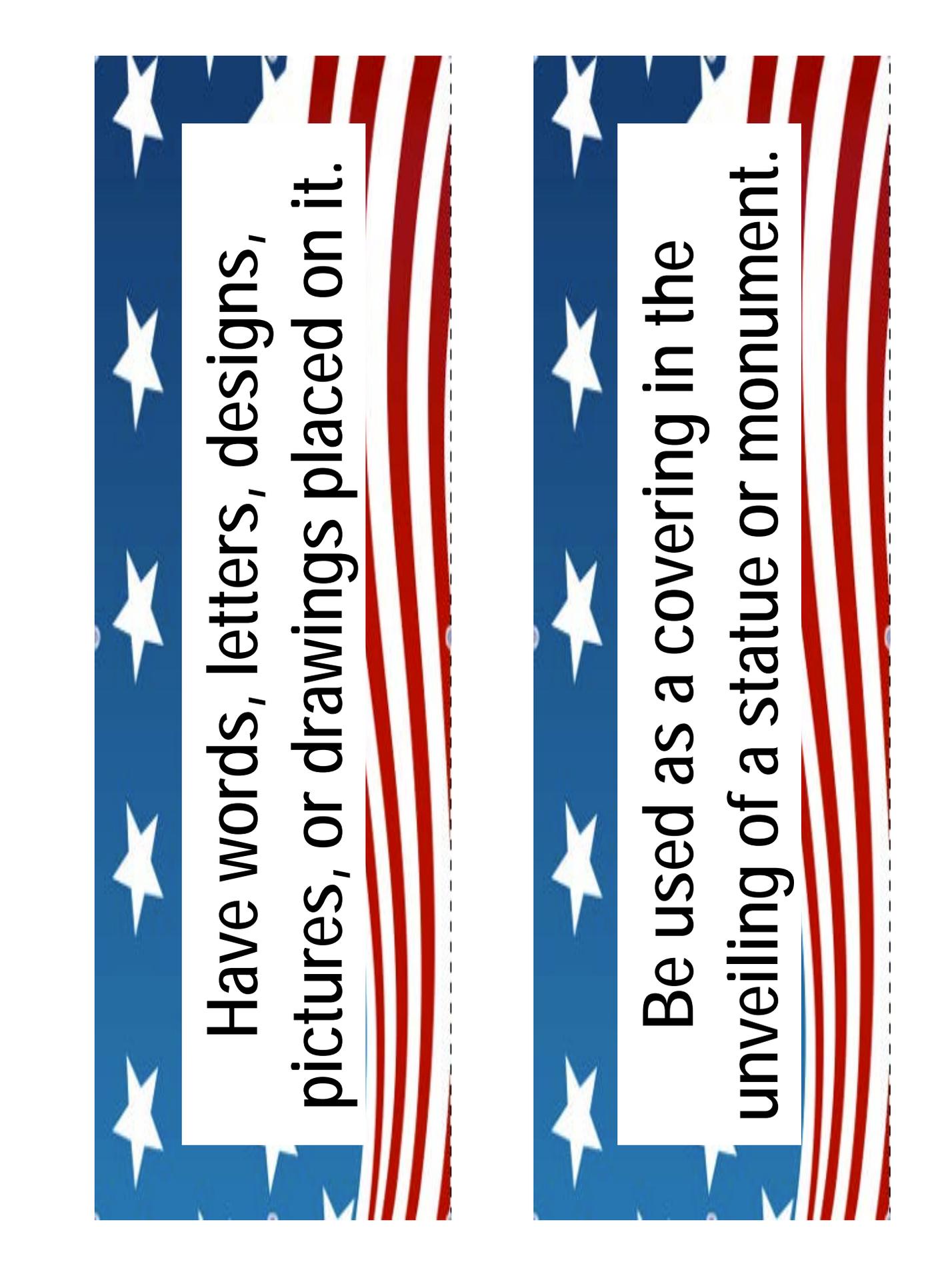
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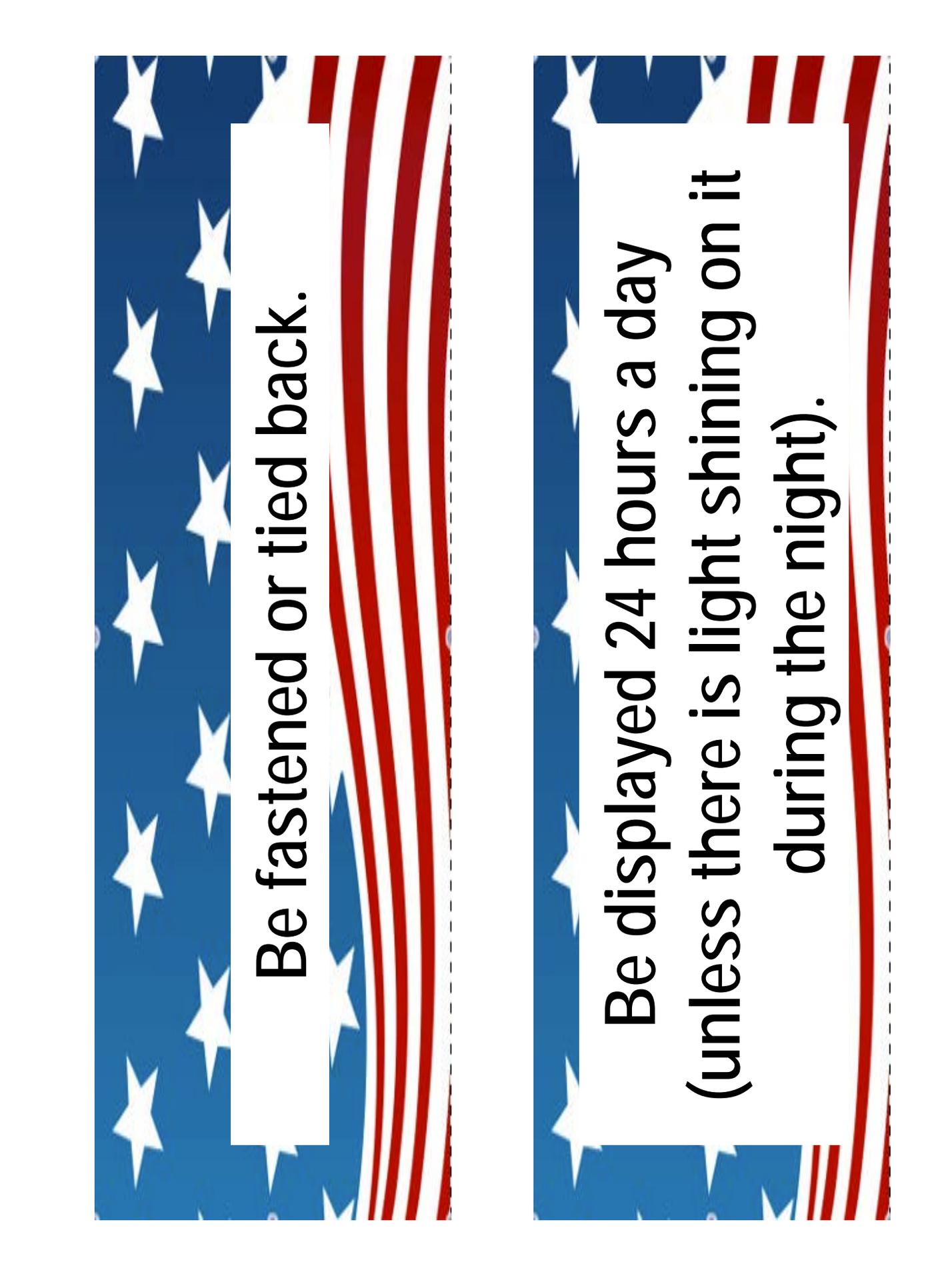
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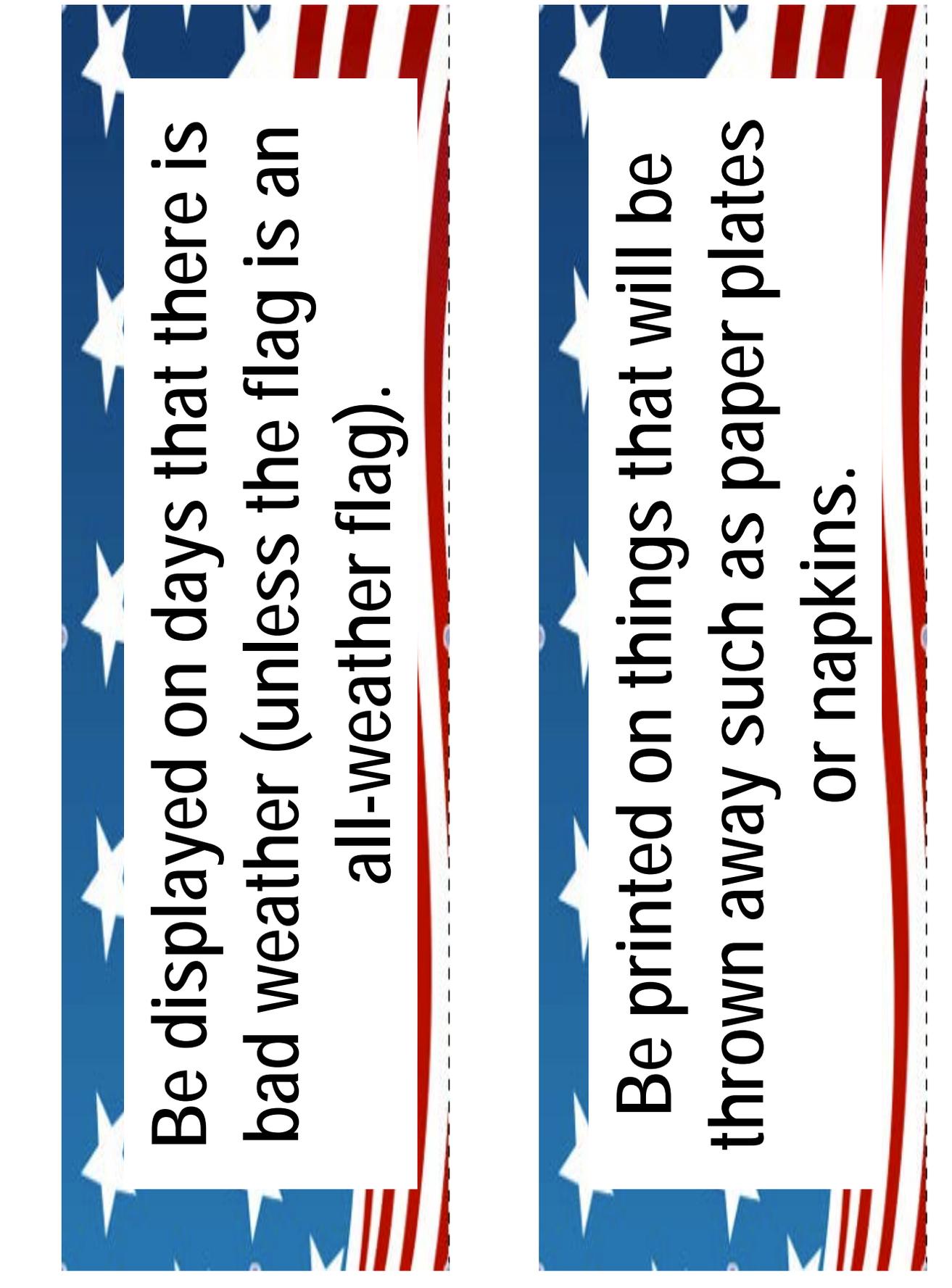
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