Alternative Method of Instruction

Grade 5

Day 1

Literacy: The First Flag

Be sure to use complete sentences to answer the discussion questions and question number 5.

Social Studies: National Symbols: The Flag

Math: Delicious Decimals

Science: Read “The Basic Parts of all Living Things”

Answer all questions
Betsy Ross made her living as a seamstress, and had many customers. She sewed many things, including clothes, blankets, and curtains. Each day, she would start with a pile of cloth and create things people paid her to make for them. Everyone knew she would do a wonderful job, so they came to her home and asked her to make many items for them. Business was so good, and as she began to get very busy, Betsy hired me to help. I am an experienced seamstress, so I can sew very well.

On my first day, three men came to her home and asked if she could make a flag. I listened to them talk with great interest. One of them was named George Washington. \(^1\) I had heard of him, and now here he was right in front of me. He came to the store in May. I remember it very well because it was my birthday that day. Washington was leading the army, but the army did not currently have a flag. The army was fighting for freedom, \(^2\) but at the time no one knew if we would win.

The men showed Betsy Ross a drawing of the flag of the new country. It had stars and stripes. I said, “Silver stars would be great.” Betsy said, “No, it will be too difficult to make those. The flag should be red, white, and blue.” So we set to work that day.

We worked on the flag for a solid month. It would be very big. In addition to sewing the flag, we had to do other work, too. Betsy said we had to make more clothes to get money. We were making the flag as a present, which meant we would not be paid for the flag.

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1. At this time, George Washington was the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, which was formed after the start of the American Revolution to lead the efforts of the Thirteen Colonies.

2. The thirteen colonies of North America fought for their independence from Great Britain in the American Revolutionary War.
Finally the flag was complete, so George Washington sent someone to come get it. He opened it up and said, “This is it. This is just what we need to inspire the army.” He did not show it to anyone yet, though. He kept it for a special day.

On July 4th, the army flew the new flag. That was the first Independence Day. On that day, the United States said it was a new country. It had a new flag. We were not there, but we heard about it later.

The army had to fight more battles. Just saying they were independent did not make it true. The war went on for 7 more years. We worried. We made more flags. In all those battles, soldiers saw that flag. Still, it was difficult to win.

When the war ended, the country started. I was proud when I saw the flag. I didn’t just make a flag. I was part of making the United States.

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3. On July 4th, 1776, representatives from the Thirteen colonies approved the Declaration of Independence, a document declaring the United States' independence from Great Britain.
Discussion Questions

Directions: Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.

1. In your experience, what has motivated you to accomplish something great or difficult? What do you think the flag meant to its creator?

2. Why do you think the American flag offered inspiration to soldiers during the war? What does the flag mean to you? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.

3. In the context of the story, what makes America unique? Do you think countries besides the U.S. put as much meaning into their flags? Why or why not? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.
Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which statement best identifies a theme of the text? [RL.2]
   A. When teams work well together, they will overcome every challenge.
   B. Everyday people can contribute to great causes through hard work.
   C. The best way to bring about great change is through small, kind acts.
   D. Women had to find creative ways to contribute to history.

2. PART B: Which quote from the text best supports the answer to Part A? [RL.1]
   A. "The men showed Betsy Ross a drawing of the flag of the new country. It had stars and stripes." (Paragraph 3)
   B. "We were making the flag as a present, which meant we would not be paid for the flag." (Paragraph 4)
   C. "This is it. This is just what we need to inspire the army." (Paragraph 5)
   D. "We made more flags. In all those battles, soldiers saw that flag. Still, it was difficult to win." (Paragraph 7)

3. PART A: How does paragraph 8 contribute to the story's development? [RL.5]
   A. It shows how the flag was necessary to win the war.
   B. It gives an example of a time when the flag inspired people in battle.
   C. It presents the flag as a key part of American history.
   D. It explains why the seamstress did not feel like she made a difference.

4. PART B: Which sentence from paragraph 8 best supports the answer to Part A? [RL.1]
   A. "When the war ended, the country started."
   B. "I was proud when I saw that flag."
   C. "I didn't just make the flag."
   D. "I was part of making the United States."

5. What are the effects of telling this story from the point of view of Betsy Ross' assistant? [RL.6]
DIRECTIONS: Read the passage and answer the following questions.

The U.S. flag has undergone many changes since the first original flag in 1777. Before the official flag there had been many different flags that were popular in different colonies, but the Betsy Ross Flag was the first official national standard. In June 1776 George Washington asked Betsy Ross to sew a flag for the new country. He and a committee had come up with a design and requirements that it must have 13 stars and 13 stripes, each to stand for the colonies. The flag should be in red, blue and white. She designed the stars in a circle over a blue field.

On June 14, 1777 the Continental Congress passed the Flag Act, which said that the flag would be made of white and red stripes and thirteen stars on blue. The number of stars were based on the 13 colonies and more stars were added as the US grew and got more states.

1. Why are there 13 stripes?

2. What do the stars on the flag stand for?

3. How many stars did the flag originally have?

4. Who made the first official flag?

5. What colors are the flag?
Solve the problems by adding each set of decimals. Don’t forget to make the divisor a whole number.

1. \[ \frac{77.35}{3.5} \]
   \[
   \begin{array}{c}
   22.1 \\
   -770.0 \\
   \hline
   3.5 \\
   3.5 \\
   0
   \end{array}
   \]

2. \[ \frac{60.66}{30} \]

3. \[ \frac{20.076}{4.2} \]

4. \[ \frac{47.058}{5.06} \]

5. \[ \frac{24.36}{7} \]

6. \[ \frac{3.7872}{0.08} \]

7. \[ \frac{82.152}{8.4} \]

8. \[ \frac{9.205}{3.5} \]

9. \[ \frac{56.588}{6.02} \]

10. \[ \frac{84.6}{10} \]

11. \[ \frac{22.104}{7.2} \]

12. \[ \frac{41.391}{5.67} \]
The Basic Parts of all Living Things

What are plants made up of? What are animals made up of? Every living thing is made up of smaller parts. The smaller parts have different functions, but all of the parts work together to allow the individual to live and survive in its environment. The smaller parts are made of even smaller parts, until you reach the smallest part of all, the Cell. Cells are the basic building blocks of all living things.

Most living things are made up of more than one cell. You are a multi-celled organism, along with animals, and plants. Multi-Celled organisms are visible with a naked eye. However, some living things in the world have just one cell. These organisms are called Single-Celled Organisms. These types of organisms are not visible with only our eyes. In order to see single-celled organisms, we need a microscope. In single-celled organisms, the single cell must work alone, so it has to do everything to make sure that the organism survives. Bacteria is an example of a single celled organism. Single-celled organisms can still eat, rid themselves of waste and reproduce.

Multi-celled organisms are more complex. Different parts have different functions, each part sharing the work and cooperating to make sure that the organism survives. In a plant (multi-celled organism), for example, the cells working together in the roots make sure that the plant gets the water and nutrients from the soil that the plant needs to survive. The cells working together in the leaves make sure that the plant exchanges oxygen for the carbon dioxide that the plant needs to survive. The roots and the leaves work together as a system for the plant to survive.

Therefore, we can conclude that Cells are the basic units of life. They are the smallest parts of a living organism that can lead an independent existence. Individually, or in association with other cells, they make up the bodies of all living things.
The Basic Parts of all Living Things Writing Activity

1. What are multi-celled organisms?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2. What are single-celled organisms?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

3. What is the building block of all living things? Why is it called a building block?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

4. Why are single-celled organisms not visible with a naked eye? What do we need to see these organisms?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

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