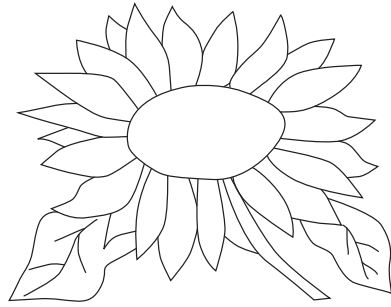


Kansas State Flag



KANSAS



KANSAS
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Kansas State Flag

Objectives:

This activity will:

- provide students with an opportunity to celebrate Kansas' birthday by making their own Kansas flag
- separate the Kansas flag into individual components
- explain the symbolism located within the Kansas flag.

Interpretive information:

The state flag of Kansas dates to 1927, although changes have been made to the original design of the flag since that time. The flag contains the state seal of Kansas, the word KANSAS in yellow, a sunflower, and a yellow and blue bar.

The flag is full of symbolism. The gold and blue bar symbolizes that Kansas was part of the Louisiana Purchase. When looked at closely, the state seal tells us much about Kansas in 1861. The early history of our state is written in the symbols contained in the state seal.

- 34 signify that Kansas was the 34th state to enter the Union.
- The state motto, *Ad Astra Per Aspera*, to the stars through difficulty, reminds us of the struggles settlers lived through during the territorial years in order to achieve statehood. (Do what you believe in even if it is difficult.)
- Rolling hills identify the terrain near Fort Riley.
- American Indians hunting bison are reminders of the people who settled Kansas earlier.
- Teams of oxen and a pair of prairie schooners suggest the advance of the frontier.
- Plowed fields represent the importance of agriculture in Kansas.
- The log house speaks of settlement.

Materials:

- blue paper
- copies of flag pieces (seal, sunflower, and bar)
- colors, markers, etc. (make sure there is yellow)
- glue
- sample of completed Kansas flag
- example of a Kansas flag

Procedures:

Introduce the activity, "Today you can make your own Kansas flag to celebrate Kansas' birthday."

- Assist students, as needed, in assembling the pieces of the flag into a Kansas flag. Explain the symbolisms in the flag as students work on their flag. Students can color and cut out the state seal, sunflower, and bar and then glue them onto a blue piece of paper.

- Use yellow marker or colors or paper to write KANSAS below the seal.
 - Sunflower: state flower
 - Blue and gold bar: symbolizes that Kansas is part of the Louisiana Purchase
 - Buffalo: state animal of Kansas and a symbol of the land before it was settled
 - American Indians on horseback: the first people that lived on the land we call Kansas
 - Wagons and oxen: settlers & pioneers who settled in Kansas
 - Log house: represents settlement and the desire to make a new home in Kansas
 - Riverboat: early transportation
 - Horses, plow, and farmer: importance of agriculture in Kansas
 - 34 stars: Kansas was the 34th state to enter the Union
 - *Ad Astra per Aspera*: state motto "To the stars through difficulty" speaks to the struggle Kansas went through to become a state (Doing something you believe in even though it is difficult.)
 - K-A-N-S-A-S: the state name

Standards:

History

- Kindergarten
 - Benchmark 3, Indicator 2 – Understands that Kansas is a state in the United States and the significance of Kansas Day as the celebration of the state's birthday.
- Grade 1
 - Benchmark 3, Indicator 2 – Recognizes the flag and identifies the symbols on it.