

Lesson 29 — Old Glory

American History • ages 6–12 • 30 minutes • one screen, the free game, this page

At a Glance

- Game: The Homeschool Climb, Old Glory section (free, no login, plays in the browser) — read.globalsovereignuniversity.org/homeschool-climb.html#old-glory. Also on the Homeschool hub: globalsovereignuniversity.org/homeschool.
- Ages & time: American History • ages 6–12 • 30 minutes • one screen, the free game, this page.
- Prep (2 min): read the Teaching Creed once, open the game to the Old Glory section, and have an American flag or a picture of one nearby. That's the whole setup.

Why this lesson

A flag is a promise a country makes to itself. Most children can draw the Stars and Stripes, but few know what its parts mean or how to treat it with respect. This lesson reads the flag like a book: thirteen stripes for the first colonies, fifty stars for the states, colors with meaning, and the people and days that made it a symbol.

What the learner will be able to do

- Explain what the 13 stripes and 50 stars stand for.
- Say what the red, white and blue mean.
- Show how to treat and fold the flag with respect.
- Tell one story from the flag's history.

The 30-Minute Climb

How to read this: the gold box in each step is your lesson, word for word — run it exactly. The notes beneath are optional support. “The room/the group” = your family; “host” = you.

1 • The Hook (3 min)

“Count the stripes on our flag. Now count the stars. Why do you think those numbers are different?”

Say it like this: let them count for real. The difference between 13 and 50 is the whole story of a growing country.

Watch for / if it stalls: ask how many states there are, then how many colonies there were at the start.

2 • Play Together (12 min)

Climb the Old Glory section together. Read each teach card aloud, then vote. After each card, point to that part of the real flag or picture.

Two rituals make it work: (1) read each teach card aloud before the question appears; (2) everyone votes before anyone clicks, so no one just follows the screen.

Watch for / if it stalls: on the folding card, stand up and fold a towel or a sheet into a triangle together, the way a flag is folded.

3 • The Talk (8 min)

1. Why does the flag have 13 stripes but 50 stars? 2. What does each color stand for? 3. What does it mean to treat a symbol with respect?

You're not fishing for a right answer — you're listening for depth:

- Q1 — the stripes honor the first 13 colonies; a star was added each time a state joined.

- Q2 — red for valor and bravery, white for purity and innocence, blue for vigilance, perseverance and justice.
- Q3 — listen for care: not letting it touch the ground, folding it neatly, standing for it. Respect for a symbol is respect for what it stands for.

4 • Solo Climb (5 min)

Answer the questions at your own pace.

Why solo: each child should be able to read the flag alone, the next time they see one.

5 • The Takeaway (2 min)

“Thirteen stripes for where we started, fifty stars for who we are.” • Homework: find the flag somewhere in your town this week, and explain its parts to someone in your family.

The badge moment: finishing all five steps earns the Bronze ring of this lesson's badge, The Flag Bearer. Mark it on the Passport now; the homework is how Silver and Gold are earned during the week.

The Teaching Creed

You are not the expert; the game is. Your job is to vote last, read aloud well, and ask “why?” one more time than feels natural. Celebrate wrong answers loudly — in here, wrong is where the lesson lives.

GENO — the GSU tutor you can actually TALK to, free, 24/7, understands 70+ languages (32 fully optimized) — can explain any answer a second way.

Adapt It & Measure It

Differentiation

- Younger (6–7): color a blank flag and count each stripe and star out loud.
- One child: look up the flag on Flag Day, June 14, and make a small card about it.
- Large co-op: practice folding a real flag together with two people holding each end.
- Older child (11–12): research how many stars the flag had in a past year, such as 1861 or 1912.

Evidence of learning (no exam)

Look for three things — Tried (explained the flag's parts to a family member), Noticed (can say what the stripes, stars and colors stand for), Changed (handles the flag with respect without being reminded). Those three words are the whole rubric, and they map onto the badge tiers below.

Gamify It — The Campus Climb

Every GSU lesson is one badge on the Climber's Passport, each earned at four depths — the GSU standard Bronze → Silver → Gold → Platinum.

LESSON 29 BADGE — The Flag Bearer • Bronze — The Climb: finished the 30-minute lesson, all five steps. • Silver — The Try: found the flag in town and explained its parts to a family member. • Gold — The Proof: reached Gold on the Old Glory climb and folded a flag correctly with a partner. • Platinum — The Teacher: ran this lesson as host for someone else. The harvest of a teacher is teachers.

The book behind this lesson: Old Glory, by Dr. Gene A Constant — Chapter 2 (Reading the Flag), Chapter 6 (Treating the Flag Right) and Chapter 7 (Days We Wave It).

“Every person on Earth is born with an American spirit: an untamed yearning for a better tomorrow.” — Dr. Gene A. Constant

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