



Picture News

What's going on this week?

The Union Jack will be flown on UK Government buildings every day of the year under plans to celebrate the United Kingdom's heritage and pride. Ministers are set to issue new guidance this week to get the world-famous flag displayed all year round – not just on designated days. Under current guidance, the flag is only required to be flown on all UK Government buildings in England, Wales and Scotland on special days, such as the Queen's birthday.

Main question:

Should we be allowed to fly flags anywhere?

Listen, think, share

- Look at this week's poster, talk about what we can see. Do we recognise any of the flags? The Union flag can be seen on the right hand side, this is the flag of the UK, do we recognise any of the other flags?
- Where else do we see flags being flown? Talk about how countries have their own flags and so might groups or organisations. Discuss why we think flags are important to some people.
- Talk about how we think some flags are designed, why do we think the colours, patterns or pictures are chosen? Do you think it's important that flags stay the same, or do you think they should be updated as time goes on?
- If you were asked to design a flag for your school, what do you think should be included?
- Watch this week's useful video, which explains the history of flags. Can you choose one fact from the video that you find interesting? Share your interesting fact.
- Read through the assembly resource, which provides information about the flying of the Union flag. Did you know that there were rules about when the flag can be flown on government buildings?
- Do you think there should be rules on when and where flags are flown?

Reflection

Flags can be used for many things, to represent a group, or country, as a symbol, as part of a message or just for decoration. They can mean different things to each of us, it is important that we learn and understand the importance in their uses around us.



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KS1 Focus

Question:

What is a flag?

Listen, think, share

- Look at this week's poster. What can you see? Focus on the flags flying. How are they held up in the air? What material do you think the flag is made from?
- Explain that flags are usually a piece of cloth attached to a pole or rope. Have you ever seen a flag before? Where was it? Do you know why it was being used?
- Look at resource 1, which shares some of the flags we might see. Do you recognise any of them? Can you match the picture to its description?
- For each picture on resource 1, think about why the flag has been used e.g. the checkered flag symbolises the start and finish of the race, the Union Jack represents a country.
- Explain that every country in the world has a flag, which is used as a symbol or emblem. Can you name a country? Do you know what its flag looks like? What is the national flag of France or Spain?
- Think about where you live. Do you know if your town, city or region has a flag? (If possible show the children a picture of your flag). What is the flag's design? Do you know what it symbolises or represents?

Reflection

A flag is a piece of cloth attached to a pole or rope. It is used as a symbol or emblem of a country, as a decoration during a public festival or as a marker.



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KS2 Focus

Question:

How are flags designed?

Listen, think, share

- Think about flags. When might we see a flag? What might the flag be used for?
- Explain that there are many different types of flag that can be used for different things, such as decorations for public festivals, as markers or warnings, but one of the main purposes is as a symbol or emblem of a country.
- Do you know any flags of the world? Record a list of countries whose flags you think you know. Do you know what the flag represents?
- Look at resource 2, which shares more information about national flags and how they are designed.
- Malcolm Farrow thinks 'a great flag has a bold, simple design to grab people's attention. It should have no words and a maximum of four strong contrasting colours.' Do you think the USA and Kosovo flags fit this? Do any of the flags you listed also fit this criteria?
- He also mentions it shouldn't be fashionable and it must be distinctive from other flags. Why do you think this is important when designing a flag?
- The design of some national flags changes over the years as sometimes they become outdated and no longer a representation of the country. Some countries hold competitions and receive flag design entries from the public. Do you think this is a good way to get a new flag design? Can you think of any other ways?

Reflection

Designing a national flag is very important. The flag represents the whole nation so the symbols, colours, patterns and shapes chosen for its design must reflect this.



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KS2 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Remind the children that designing a national flag is extremely important as it is a representation of a nation. Explain that they are going to design a flag that represents their class. Think about:

- What is your class like?
- Do you have something special that unites you?
- What is important to you as a class?
- What are your class values.

Design your flag considering Malcolm Farrow's criteria:

- a bold, simple design to grab people's attention
- no words
- a maximum of four strong contrasting colours
- not fashionable
- must be distinctive from other flags

Option 2: Look at the USA and Kosovo flag found on resource 2.

- Can you locate the USA and Kosovo on a world map?

Show the children a number of other national flags.

- Do you recognise any of them?
- Can you name the country they represent?

Look at a world map and locate the countries. Ask the children to select one flag design.

- Do you know why the flag is designed this way?

Ask the children to read and research to find out what their chosen national flag represents. Present their findings to others.

- Do you have a favourite flag design?
- Why is it your favourite?



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KS1 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Show the children a selection of national flags.

- Do you recognise any of the flags?
- What shape are the flags?
- What colours can you see?
- What shapes can you see in this flag?
- Can you find a triangle?
- Can you find a way to sort or group the flags e.g. all the flags with circles, flags with red?

Give the children pictures of national flags to explore. Ask them to discuss the colours and shapes they can see then select a way to sort or group their flags.

Option 2: Remind the children that flags can be used as a way to communicate or as a signal. Explain that you are going to play the 'flag game' where you will use flags to communicate or signal different actions for the children to carry out. You could use the following or create your own:

- Red flag – jog on the spot
- Yellow flag – star jumps
- Blue flag – jogging
- Spotty flag – high knees
- Green flag – walk backwards
- Stripy flag – spotty dogs

Once you have played the 'flag game' as a class, ask the children to work in smaller groups to lead a session where they can decide what each flag represents!



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This Week's Useful Websites

This week's news story

<https://bit.ly/3cuDImz>

This Week's Useful Videos

Why do countries have flags?

www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0U54r4nzjE

This Week's Virtual Assembly

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This Week's Useful Vocabulary

Designated – to say officially that something has a particular character or purpose.

...to get the world-famous flag displayed all year round – not just on **designated** days.

Guidance – help and advice about how to do something.

Ministers are set to issue new **guidance** this week.

Heritage – a country's heritage is all the features, qualities, traditions that have been passed from one generation to another.

...under plans to celebrate the United Kingdom's **heritage** and pride.

Represent – to be a sign or symbol of something.

Flags can be used for many things, to **represent** a group...

Required – something that is essential according to the rules.

Under current guidance, the flag is only **required** to be flown on all UK Government buildings in England, Wales and Scotland on special days

Symbol – a sign, shape or object that is used to represent something else.

Flags can be used for many things... as a **symbol**...