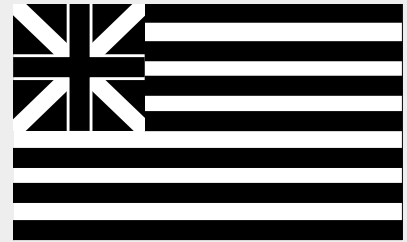


## Historic American Flag Presentation

(Present one of these two flags—either the Continental Flag or the Flag of 1777.)

### *The Continental Flag*

A nation's flag is a stirring sight as it flies in the wind, representing a country's land, its people, its government, and its ideals. The Egyptians flew the first flaglike symbols thousands of years ago, and people have been flying them ever since.



While many flags have flown over what is now the United States of America, the first flag to represent all the colonies was the Continental Colors, also called the Cambridge Flag or the Grand Union Flag. This flag, on which the British flag appeared at the upper left, was the unofficial American flag in 1775 and 1776. On New Year's Day 1776, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, George Washington chose it to be flown to celebrate the formation of the Continental Army. Later that year, it was also the first American flag to be saluted by another country—the Netherlands.

Let us honor this flag with a song that also honors America:

### **America the Beautiful**

O beautiful for spacious skies,  
 For amber waves of grain,  
 For purple mountain majesties  
 Above the fruited plain!  
 America! America!  
 God shed his grace on thee  
 And crown thy good with brotherhood  
 From sea to shining sea!