

# The Pledge of Allegiance

Francis Bellamy, a magazine publisher, wrote the first Pledge of Allegiance for school children to recite in celebration of Columbus Day, October 12, 1892. It was published in *The Youth's Companion*, a popular family magazine of the day. The original pledge read as follows:

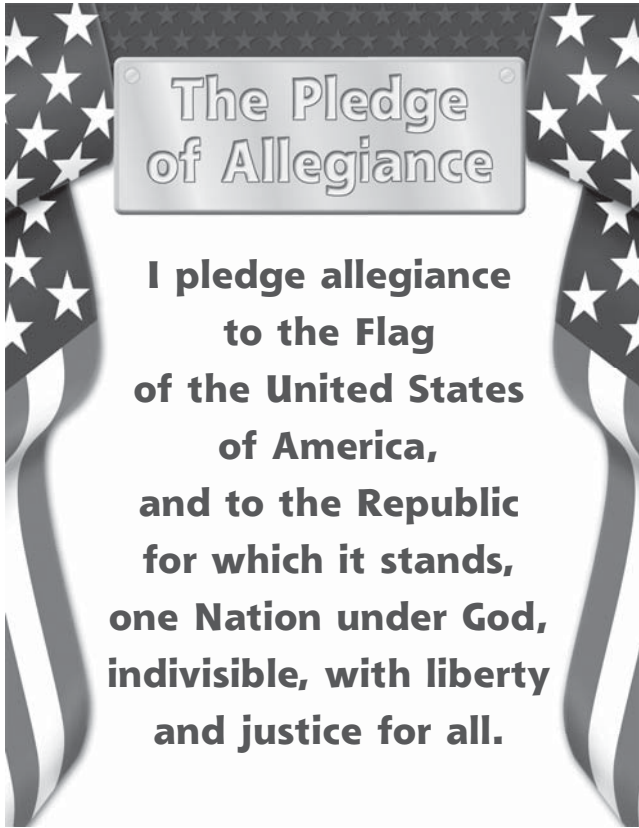
"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Some changes have been made to the original. The first National Flag Conference in Washington, D.C., on June 14, 1923, added "the Flag of the United States of America" in place of "my Flag." Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance in 1942, but one year later, the Supreme Court ruled that school children could not be forced to recite it. In June 1954, the words "under God" were added. Today, about half of our fifty states observe laws that encourage the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in the classroom.

### Activity

Number the phrases to show the correct order in which to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

___ I pledge allegiance
___ and to the Republic for which it stands
___ one nation
___ to the Flag
___ of the United States of America
___ indivisible
___ under God
___ with liberty and justice for all



## Displaying the Flag

**Directions:** There are specific guidelines for saying the Pledge of Allegiance and displaying the flag. Read the paragraphs below and answer the questions that follow.

Although we have many freedoms in the United States, we are still expected to be respectful when it comes to saying the Pledge of Allegiance and displaying the flag. When a person says the Pledge of Allegiance, he or she is to be standing, facing the flag, with his or her right hand over his or her heart. If wearing a hat, it should be removed with the right hand and placed over the heart. People in uniform should salute the flag.

There are many guidelines to follow when displaying the United States flag. The Federal Flag Code was passed to protect the integrity of the flag. The flag should be displayed from sunrise to sunset, and properly folded when taken down. A flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated at night. If the weather is poor, the flag should not be displayed. When in a parade or marching situation, the flag should always be on a staff and be on the right if with one other flag, in front and center if there is a line of flags. On election days, the flag should be displayed in front of every polling place. It should also be displayed in front of or near every institution of learning, like a school. If using a flag on a vehicle, the flag should be firmly attached to the chassis or attached to the right fender. When the flag is flown with city or state flags, particularly when sharing a staff, the United States flag should always be hoisted first, or on top. When flags of two or more nations are flown, they should be on separate staffs. The flag should always be flown at half-staff after a national tragic event. Often times, it is flown at half-staff after the death of a firefighter or a police officer. Out of respect, it is a general rule that the flag should never touch the ground.

1. How should one position his/her body when saying the Pledge of Allegiance? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What should one do with a hat when saying the Pledge of Allegiance? \_\_\_\_\_
3. People in uniform should do what when saying the Pledge of Allegiance? \_\_\_\_\_
4. From what time to what time should the flag be displayed, and what is the exception to the rule? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What should happen to a flag when taken down? \_\_\_\_\_
6. In a parade situation, how should the flag be displayed? \_\_\_\_\_
7. There should always be a flag displayed in front of what? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How should a flag be displayed with flags of other nations? \_\_\_\_\_
9. After a tragic event, how should the flag be displayed? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Why should a flag never touch the ground? \_\_\_\_\_

## Write Your Own Pledge

A pledge is a promise that you make to someone. In the space below, write your own pledge. It might be a promise to a parent, a sister or brother, or a friend. You might make a pledge to a favorite pet or to the land in which you live. Be creative and have fun!

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