

Name _____

Date _____

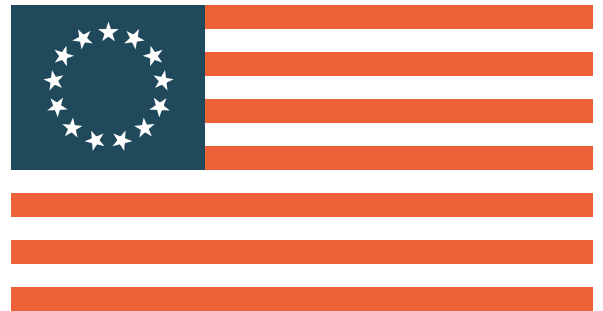
National Symbols: The American Flag

Directions: Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

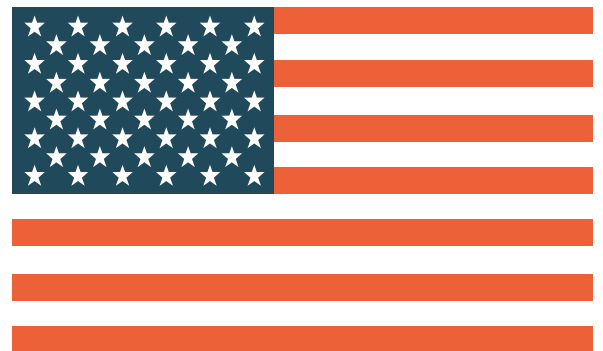
The U.S. flag has undergone many changes since the first original flag in 1777. Before the official flag was chosen, there were many different flags that were popular in different colonies. The exact origin of the first American flag is unknown, but many historians believe that a New Jersey Congressman, named Francis Hopkinson, designed the flag.

A committee decided that the design should have 13 stars and 13 stripes, each to stand for the colonies. They also decided that the flag should be red, white, and blue.

On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress passed the Flag Act, which approved the design of the American flag. The number of stars has grown from 13 to 50. The stars represented the original colonies and now they represent the fifty states.



The colonial flag



The current American flag

Questions

1. Why are there 13 stripes? _____

2. What do the stars on the flag stand for? _____

3. How many stars did the flag originally have? _____

4. What colors are the flag? _____