

**THE FIRST FLAG, AND OTHER
PATRIOTIC PLAYS AND
EXERCISES, FOR CHILDREN
FROM EIGHT TO FIFTEEN YEARS**

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The First Flag, And Other Patriotic Plays and Exercises, for Children from Eight to Fifteen Years
by Various

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VARIOUS

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CONTENTS

PLAYS AND EXERCISES

The First Flag. <i>Bertha E. Bush</i>	7
A Flag Exercise. <i>Bertha E. Bush</i>	9
A Flag Play	10
Serving the Country. <i>Dorothy Green</i>	12
The Flag	13
Old Glory's Children. <i>Dorothy Green</i>	14
To the School-house Flag	17
Little Flags. <i>Alice E. Allen</i>	18
Guess	20
The Flower Flag. <i>Eleanor Cameron</i>	21
A Flag Game	31
Flags of Many Lands. <i>Eleanor Cameron</i>	32
Our Flag. <i>Alice E. Allen</i>	41
A Living Flag. <i>M. L. B.</i>	42
See My Flag	44
Our Flag. <i>Bertha E. Bush</i>	45
Patriotic Letters. <i>A. E. A.</i>	46
Flag of Our Hearts. <i>A. E. A.</i>	47
The Message of the Flag. <i>Harriet Hunting Pierson</i>	48
Under One Flag. <i>Alice E. Allen</i>	49
Exercise — My Country's Flag. <i>C. Elizabeth Westman</i> ..	50
February Speaks. <i>A. E. A.</i>	53
The Growth of Our Flag	54
The Red, White and Blue. <i>Kate B. Ellis</i>	57
Flag Exercise. <i>Alice E. Allen</i>	58
My Flag. <i>A. E. A.</i>	63

What Our Colors Mean.....	64
Our Flag. <i>A. E. A.</i>	65
The Old Flag. <i>Alice E. Allen</i>	67
Our Bonny Flag. <i>Bertha E. Bush</i>	68
Stars of Uncle Sam. <i>A. E. A.</i>	70
Flag Colors	73
Facts About Our Flag. <i>M. E. L.</i>	74
Writing the Flag's Story. <i>A. E. A.</i>	79
A Flag Salute. <i>M. A. S.</i>	80
For My Country. <i>Juanita Stafford</i>	81
The Patriotic Drums. <i>Alice E. Allen</i>	82
Flag Play	83
Red, White and Blue. <i>Daisy D. Stephenson</i>	84
A Personal Lesson	85
Three Little Flags. <i>Alice E. Allen</i>	86
A Flag	87
The Development of the United States Flag. <i>Florence M. Miller</i>	88
Flag Exercise for Little Folks. <i>L. F. Armitage</i>	90
A Flag. <i>Alice E. Allen</i>	91
A Riddle. <i>Eleanor Cameron</i>	92
Our Country. <i>Alice E. Allen</i>	94
The Message of the Flag. <i>A. E. A.</i>	95
Our Flag. <i>Eleanor Cameron</i>	96
What the Flag Says	97
Songs for Flag Day. <i>A. E. A.</i>	98
Our Songs. <i>A. E. A.</i>	100
Soldier Song	101
Meaning of the Colors	102
A Patriotic Alphabet for Flag Day. <i>Mary Eleanor Kramer</i>	103
A Patriotic Medley. <i>Harriet Wilbur</i>	110
Flag Day Exercises. <i>Annebelle R. Bucknam</i>	112
Gems of Patriotism. <i>Compiled by Nelle Spangler Mustain</i>	117
History of Our Flag	121

CONTENTS

5

DRILLS AND MARCHES

A Flag Drill for First Grade. <i>A. H. K.</i>	129
Yankee Doodle March. <i>Harriet A. James</i>	131
The Star Spangled Banner. <i>Harriet Wilbur</i>	133
The Flag. <i>H. W.</i>	135
Flag Drill and Salute. <i>Florence M. Miller</i>	138
Patriotic March and Drill. <i>Rose W. Leiter, A. B.</i>	140
The Color Brigade. <i>Claire Foster</i>	148

DRAMATIZATIONS

The First American Flag. <i>Geoffrey F. Morgan</i>	151
Making of the First American Flag. <i>Florence M. Miller</i> ..	155
Making a Flag. <i>Bertha E. Bush</i>	157
In Betsy Ross's Time. <i>Sara E. Kirk</i>	161
Motion Picture Dramatization of "Hats Off!" <i>Beatrice</i> <i>M. Stevens</i>	165
The Man Without a Country. <i>Alice Cook Fuller</i>	171
"Single-Handed McAuley." <i>Florence M. Miller</i>	184



PLAYS AND EXERCISES

THE FIRST FLAG

BERTHA E. BUSH

A dear little lady sat ¹ in her chair,
In her Quaker suit of gray,
When there came a knocking ² at the door,
On a long-ago June day.

She rose ³ from her seat, and she opened the door,
And she courtesied ⁴ very low,
For Washington stood there, hat in hand, ⁵
On that June day long ago.

"O Mistress Betsy Ross," he said, ⁶
With a bow polite as could be,
"Will you not make a bonny flag
For our country and for me?"

"I'll make you the finest flag I can, ⁷
Of red, and white, and blue."
She threaded her needles, and cut her cloth, ⁸
O every stripe was true!

8 PATRIOTIC PLAYS AND EXERCISES

Each pointed star was just exact;
The seams would never fray.
"Tis a well-made flag," said quaint Betsy Ross,⁹
On that long-ago summer day.

And the soldiers shouted and tossed their caps,¹⁰
- And the women waved kerchiefs too,¹¹
As the first flag floated on the air,
With its red, and white, and blue.

MOTIONS

- 1 Girls sit very primly at desks with hands crossed on laps.
- 2 Boys knock on desks.
- 3 Boys and girls stand and turn to face each other.
- 4 Girls courtesy to boys.
- 5 Boys remove imaginary hats and bow low.
- 6 Boys speak.
- 7 Girls speak and courtesy.
- 8 Girls are seated and go through motions of cutting cloth, threading needles, folding and cutting stars, and basting them on, measuring and sewing stripes, and so on. Boys watch them respectfully.
- 9 Girls speak as they make believe fold up their work and give it to the boys. Boys bow and girls courtesy in return.
- 10 Boys wave caps.
- 11 Girls wave handkerchiefs. Meanwhile a flag is carried to the front and held up. All salute the flag and join in singing a patriotic song.