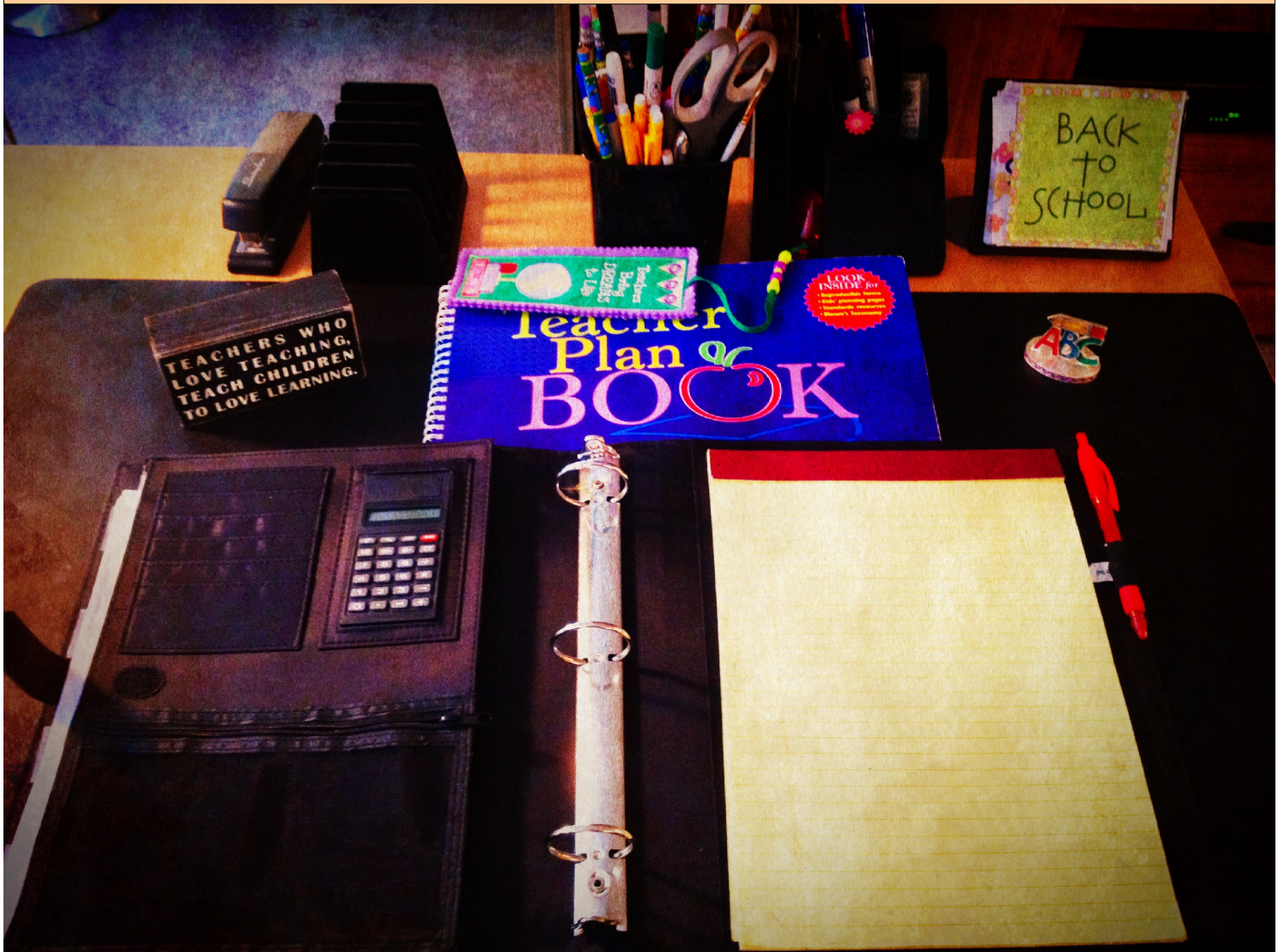


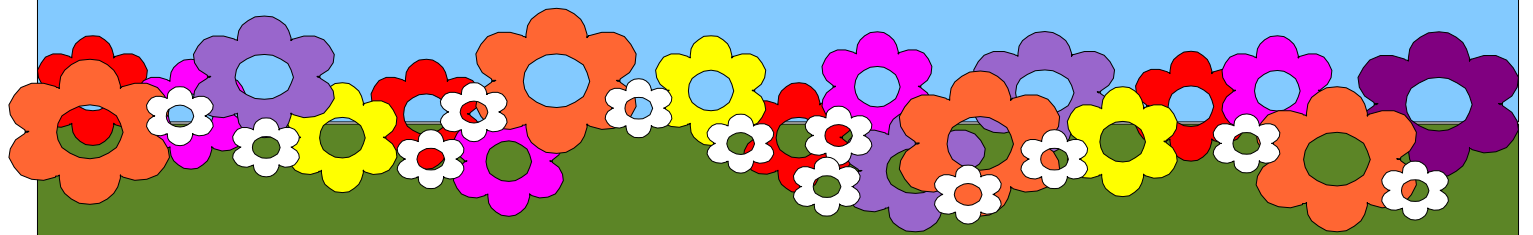
Educator's Desktop



Pre-Kindergarten Theme
-- American
Independence Day!

This unit uses the theme, *American Independence Day*, to cover language arts, fine motor activities, math, science, social studies, music and games.

Your students will be having so much fun, they won't even realize how much they are learning!

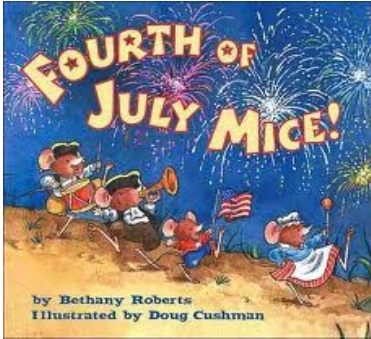


This unit includes ideas for centers, songs and finger plays, recipes, and patterns.

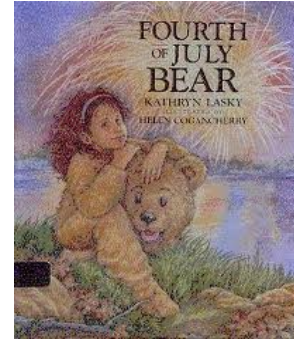
It has games and party ideas.

Language Arts

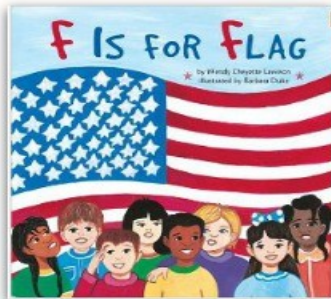
Books to Read



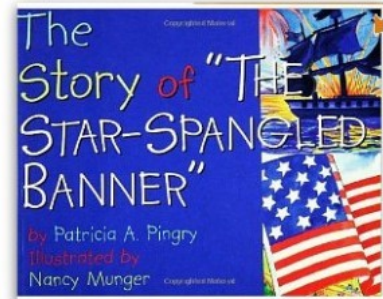
Fourth Of July Mice
by Bethany Roberts



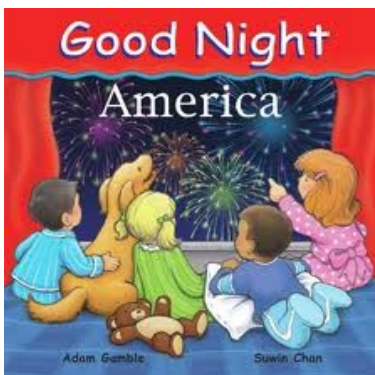
Fourth Of July Bear
by Kathryn Lasky



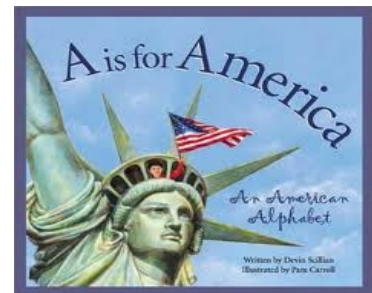
F Is For Flag by
Wendy Cheyette
Lewiston



The Story Of The
Star-Spangled Banner
by Patricia A. Pingry



Goodnight America
by Adam Gamble



A Is For America
by Devin Scillian

Language Arts

Activities

Firework is a compound word. Use the matching game at the end of this packet to match other compound words.

Let the children use the eagle coloring and tracing page for fine motor control practice. They color the eagle, trace the word eagle and even add feathers.

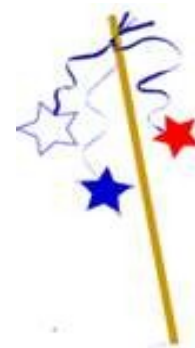
Center Ideas



Reading Corner

-- Put lawn chairs and flags in your reading area for a parade feeling.

Circle Time -- Use red, white and blue electrical or duct tape to make a star shapes Pass a patriotic wand to show who is allowed to talk.



Math

Measurement and Shape Recognition

Using red, white and/or blue electrical tape, make stars on the floor in your block corner. The children can use this tape as a guideline to build a star.

Counting

Get out a real life American flag and count how many stripes there are all together, how many are red, how many are white. Discuss that it is thirteen because there were thirteen original states. Count how many stars. Let them estimate first. Talk about why there are fifty.

Patterning

Cut out red, white, and blue paper stripes and stars. Let the children use these for patterning. They can even use them to create their own personal version of the American flag.

One-to-One Correlation

On a rectangular, blue piece of paper, place 50 star stickers. Let the children use star shaped erasers to match on top of the stickers for one to one correlation.

Graphing

Make a graph with students about who is afraid of fireworks and who is not. It is a good moment to talk about firework safety.

Science

Experimentation and Observation



In your sand or water table, add patriotic themed supplies for sinking or floating or sifting, stirring and scooping. You can use scoops, sieves, red, white, and blue bowls for sorting. You can add confetti and various small items in red, white, and blue.

Ask parents to help and collect yourself various colorful pieces of recycling, like plastics and paper. Cut these apart and separate by color -- red, white and blue (maybe even silver and gold). Photocopy and enlarge the American flag at the end of this packet. Allow the children to create a collage by "coloring in the flag" with trash. Use Mod Podge, wallpaper glue or watered down Elmer's glue to stick the pieces on. You can color code the flag with crayon or pencil for the children. Talk about how important recycling is to the environment.



Social Studies

Sidewalk Parade

Using sidewalk chalk, mark a patriotic path for your students to follow. Give them instruments and streamers. Play marching music. Invite other classes to be spectators, or even to join in on the fun. Parents might like to have a parade scheduled for their enjoyment as well.

Happy Birthday, America!

Kids might not understand what all of the hubbub is about on the fourth. To help bring it down to their level, explain that it is America's birthday. In your dramatic play area, place all of the party supplies that the parents bring in.

The children will love preparing for the birthday and celebrating over and over!

Road Trip

From a local travel agency or online, gather pamphlets and pictures about American monuments and iconic places. You could have the Statue of Liberty, Mount Rushmore, Cape Canaveral, or the Washington Monument. Set up a travel agency or American Museum for pretend play, adding all of the necessary props.

Puzzling Geography

Print out the map of America in this packet, glue to card or tagboard. Cut apart to create a puzzle of America.

Fun Food and Party

Recipes

Fourth of July Fruit Cup

1 quart of blueberries

1 quart of blueberries

1 bunch of bananas

Clean berries, remove stems, and place berries in a large bowl. Peel and slice bananas into bowl. Toss lightly. Serve in small clear plastic cups.

Flag Sundae

Serve vanilla ice cream with strawberry topping. Add blue food coloring to Cool Whip to complete the color scheme!

Pretzel Sparklers

Dip pretzel logs in melted white chocolate chips. Roll them in red, white, and blue sprinkles.

Playdough

2 cups of flour

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup of salt

1 TB of alum or cream of tartar

1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water

1 TB cooking oil

Bring water to boil. Add cooking oil. Add dry ingredients. Mix and knead until smooth.

Firecracker Snack

Cut a toilet paper roll in half. Fit one piece halfway into the other. Then slide some treats inside. Wrap with brightly colored tissue paper. Tie the ends with curling ribbon. During your party, let the children pop their firecrackers to get the treats inside.

Fun Food and Party

Decorations/ Activities

Using the parent letter at the end of this packet, ask for patriotic party decorations. Many things can also be found at the dollar store. Use red, white, and blue tablecloths. Put small flags in centers and all around the room. Use streamers and hanging decorations to decorate the walls.

Using paint and a small amount of soap, paint the windows with red, white, and blue stars.

Listen to patriotic music. This site, <http://www.patrioticon.org/patriotic-soundfiles.htm/>, has music you can listen to for free.

The parent letter requests that children wear red, white, and blue. Just in case, be sure to make kerchiefs with the children, as shown in the craft section.

Make a woven American flag placemat. Laminate for durability. Take a large piece of white construction paper. Place a blue rectangle in the upper left corner. Add stars. Cut wavy lines into the rest of the paper horizontally. Weave red paper into these cuts.



Games

Star Struck

Cut out big and small stars in red, white, and blue. Teach the children the song **Pick a Star**. Children take turns choosing the correct star from the song.



Patriotic Musical Chairs

Play musical chairs using the song **Firework** from Katy Perry.

Capture The Flags

Get a package of small American flags on toothpicks that people stick into food. Hide them all over your room or playground. Let the children go wild hunting for them. Be sure to keep counting and make sure that you get them all back!



Sparkler, Sparkler, Firework

Take the old game **Duck, Duck Goose** and just change it to **Sparkler, Sparkler, Firecracker**.

Songs and Finger Plays

Pick a Star

(To the tune of Pick a Bale of Cotton)

Gonna jump down, turn around,

Pick a (big, red) star;

Jump down turn around,

Pick a star today.

Oh, stars!

Pick a big, red star.

Oh, stars!

Pick a star today!

America Is Home

(To the tune of Mary Had A Little Lamb)

America is big and wide, big and wide,
big and wide.

America is big and wide and it is home for me.

America is proud and free, proud and free,
proud and free.

America is proud and free and it is home for me.

America is you and me, you and me,
you and me.

America is you and me and home to me!

The Red, White and Blue

(To the tune of Happy Birthday)

Oh, the red , white and blue.

Oh, the red , white and blue.

Give a cheer we can all hear

For the red , white and blue!

Oh, the red , white and blue.

Oh, the red , white and blue.

Stand up tall and give your all,

For the red , white and blue!

Oh, the red , white and blue.

Oh, the red , white and blue.

Shout hooray living free every day

For the red , white and blue!

Independence Day

(To the tune of Jingle Bells)

Barbeques, swimming pools,
picnics all around.

Stars and stripes are in our sights
all around our town.

Look up high in the sky-
a fireworks display.

Celebrate the independence
of the USA!

Crafts

Kerchiefs and Bandannas

Cut out white fabric squares about 18-24 inches on each side, one for each child. Use fabric paint and sponges to decorate with stars, stripes and fireworks.

Patriotic Playdough

Make a large batch of playdough using the recipe in the packet. Make one third red, one third blue, and one third uncolored, but with silver or gold glitter. Add star cookie cutters and you have a fine motor activity where children can make sparkling spectacular sculptures.

Fingerpaint Banners

On fingerpaint paper, help students to make stars from masking tape. Let them go wild using red and blue fingerpaint, covering the entire page. When the paint dries, help the children to remove the tape, revealing white stars.

Parade Props

Fold a red paper plate in half. Glue colorful streamers around the edges. Staple the sides together for a colorful parade prop. If you would like, add seeds or beads before stapling and it can also be a shaker!

Crafts

Pop Paint

Using Biopaint and a styrofoam egg carton, you can easily make paint pops! In the egg compartments of the egg carton, layer several or use one color of paint. Close the lid and poke popsicle sticks through it down into the paint. Place into the freezer for a few hours. When the paint is frozen, take the carton out to let it thaw for a few minutes. Take the sticks of paint out and place in a plastic tray for the children to paint with. As the paint melts, it creates an explosion of color.

Glitter Fireworks

On dark blue or black paper, help the children to draw fireworks with glue. Let the children choose glitter to shake onto the glue.

Windsock

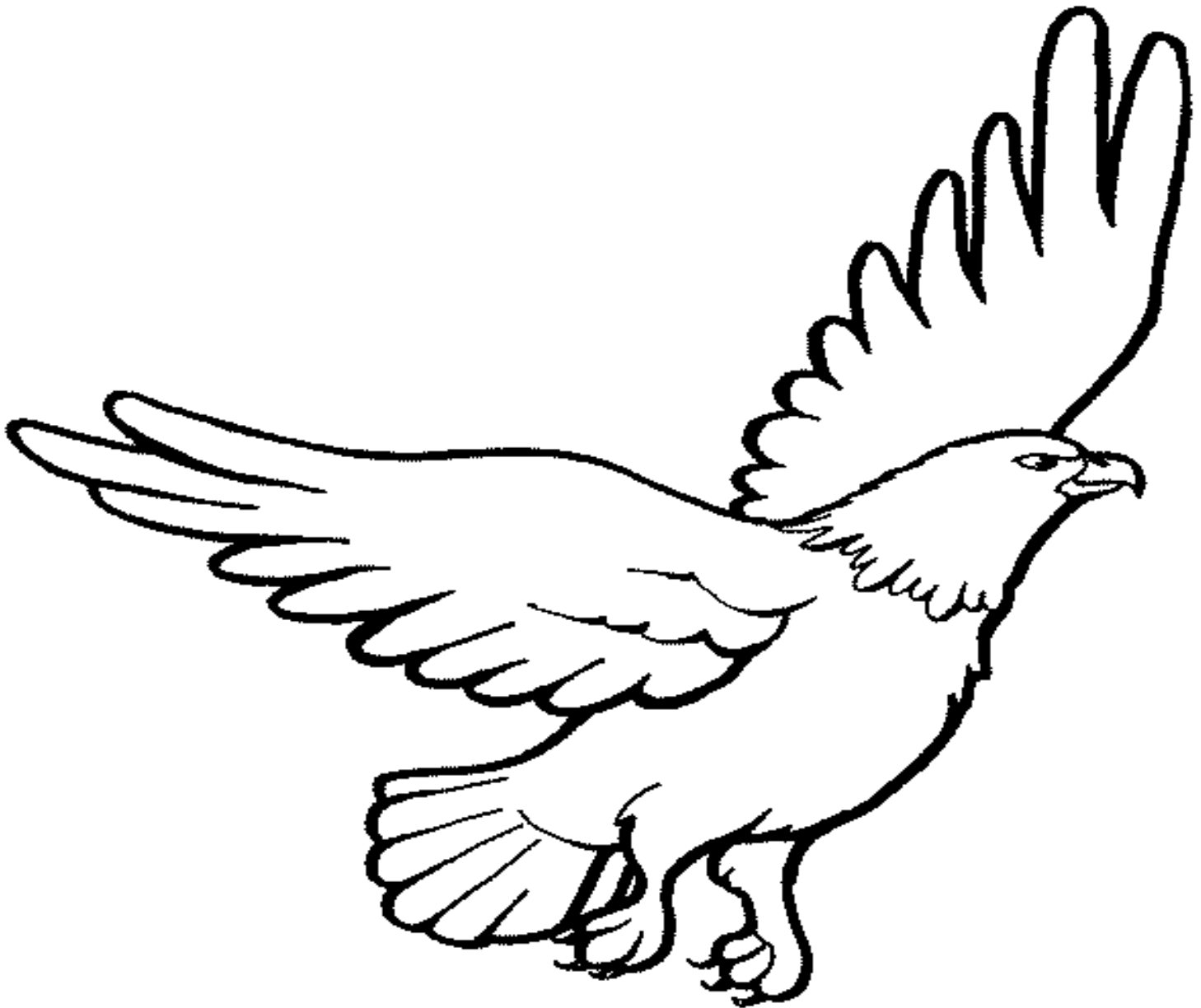
Give each child rectangle of white fun foam. They can write their names on the back. On the front, allow them to dip their fingertips into red paint. They can swipe them back and forth across the foam to make a stripe pattern. When dry, staple into a tube. Buy a thin, blue, plastic tablecloth. Let the children cut off strips and staple the strips inside the end of the tube. At the other end of the tube, staple on two ends of a piece of string, to hang it with. If you want, you can use white, yellow, or even glitter foam to cut out stars to put on the ends of the blue streamers.

A variation of this would be a mobile made out of a colorful paper plate. Add red, white, and blue streamers and stars, for a colorful indoor decoration.

Eagle Coloring and Tracing

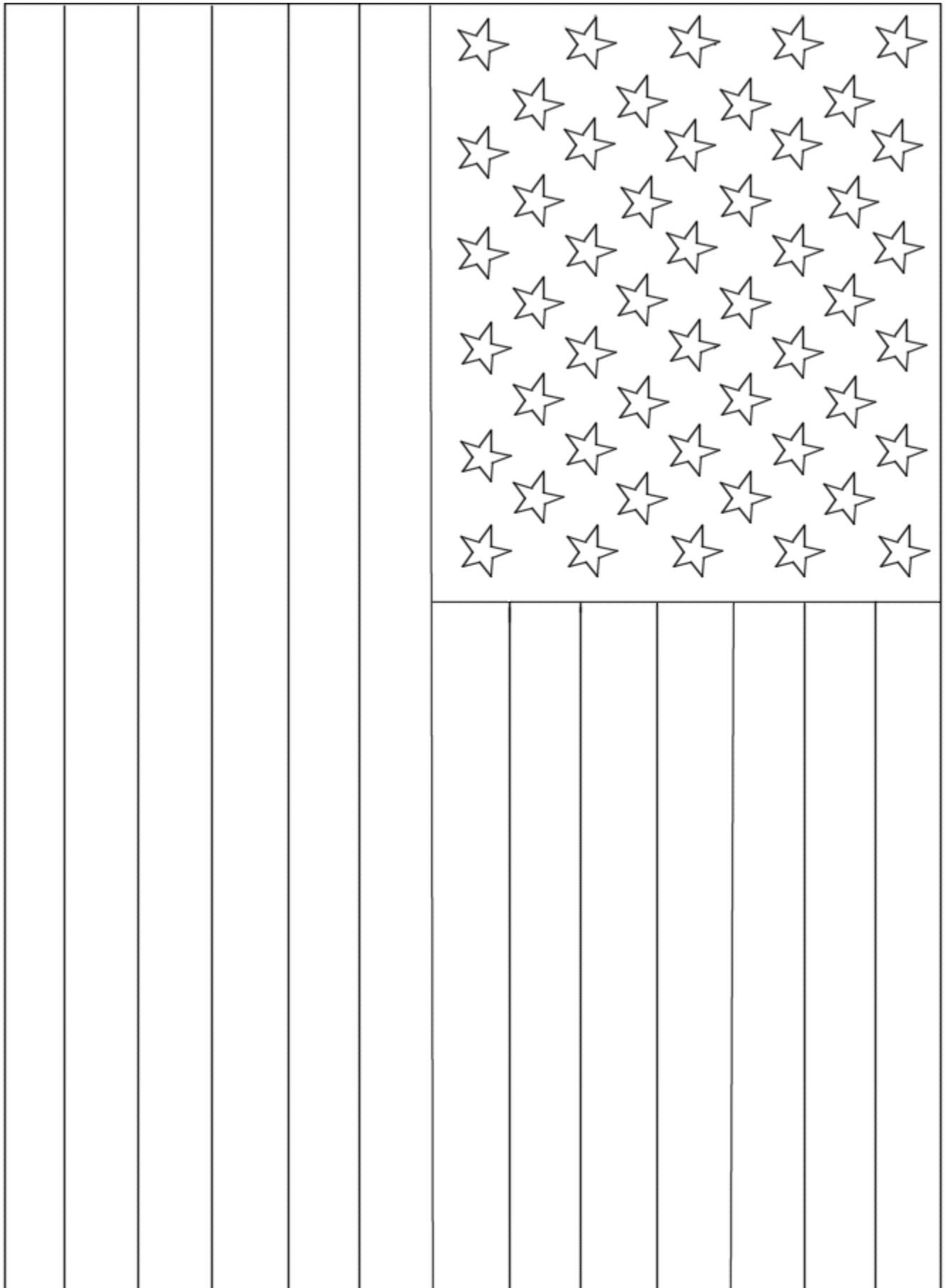
Color, trace the word eagle and add feathers.

Name: _____



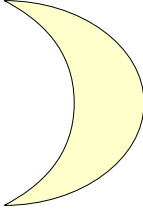
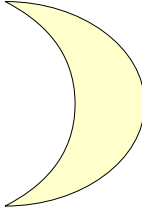


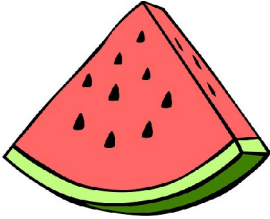
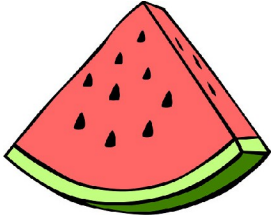




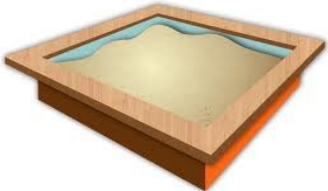
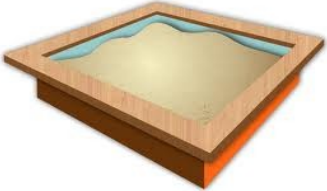




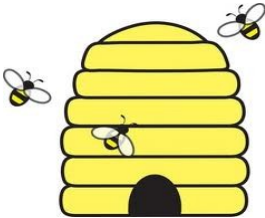
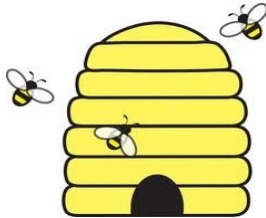


The eagle is a symbol of America.

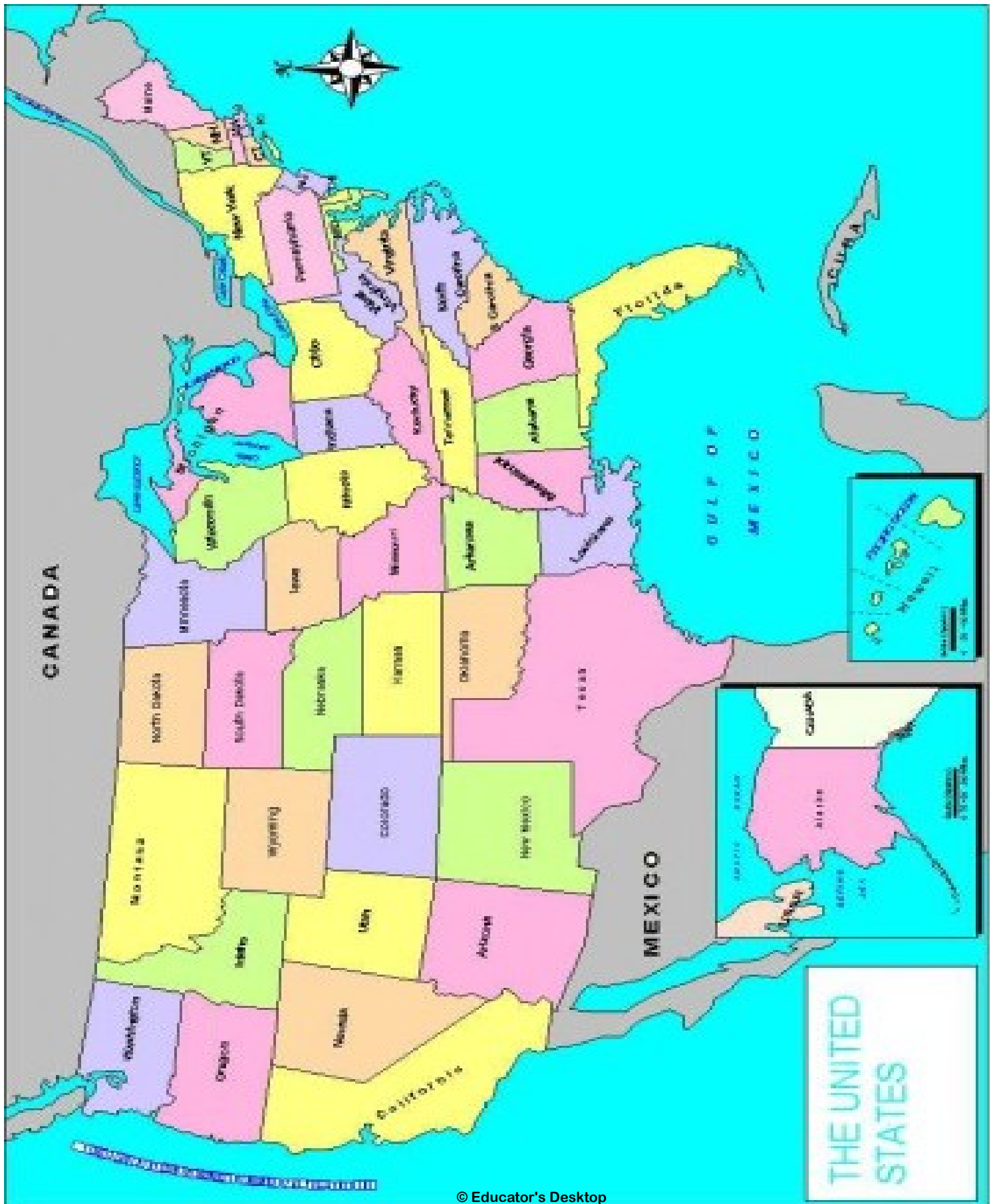
American Flag Coloring



Compound Word Matching

<p>fire</p> 	<p>work</p> 	<p>moon</p> 	<p>light</p> 
<p>star</p> 	<p>fish</p> 	<p>water</p> 	<p>melon</p> 
<p>butter</p> 	<p>fly</p> 	<p>sail</p> 	<p>boat</p> 
<p>sand</p> 	<p>box</p> 	<p>pop</p> 	<p>corn</p> 
<p>sun</p> 	<p>flower</p> 	<p>bee</p> 	<p>hive</p> 

American Map Puzzle





Dear Parents,
As part of our American Independence Day Unit, we are decorating our classroom in red, white, and blue. We will have lots of patriotic centers. For this we need your help. Please send in leftover Fourth of July party items: streamers, party plates, plastic eating utensils, confetti -- anything patriotic or red, white, and blue. We will be plunging into this unit on: Please allow your child to wear patriotic or red, white, and blue clothes during our celebration of the nation! Thank you in advance for your help!



Name Tags

