

Historical Progression of our Flag's Design

The American Flag has been the symbol of our nation's strength and unity for over 200 years. In May of 1776, Betsy Ross reported that she sewed the first American Flag.

June 14, 1777 - The Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act noting that it "be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation"

Between 1777 and 1960 Congress passed several acts that changed the arrangement of the flag to allow for additional stars and stripes to be added to reflect the admission of each new state. The Flag has changed 26 times since the new 13 state Union adopted it.

Today the flag consists of thirteen horizontal stripes, seven red alternating with six white, representing the thirteen original colonies. The stars represent the 50 states of our Union.

Red symbolizes Hardiness and Valor, White symbolizes Purity and Innocence, and Blue represents Vigilance, Perseverance and Justice.



December 3, 1775 (Unofficial "Grand Union Flag" - no colonies are represented)



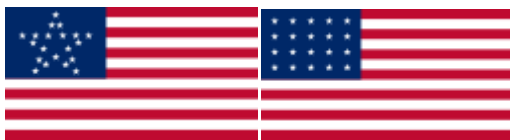
June 14, 1777 Betsy Ross Flag - 13 States



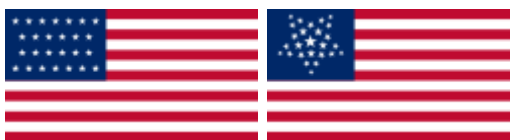
Bennington Flag – (Notice that the top stripe is white)



May 1, 1795 - 15 States - Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Virginia, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Vermont, Kentucky (Notice this design had 15 Stripes)



July 4, 1818 – 20 States with Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Ohio, and Tennessee



July 4, 1837 – 26 States with Illinois, Alabama, Maine, Missouri, Arkansas, & Michigan



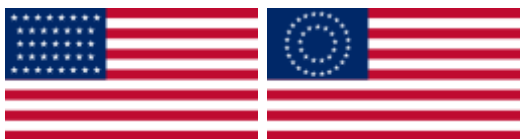
July 4th 1847 - 29 States with Florida, Texas, & Iowa



July 4, 1859 – 33 States with Wisconsin, California, Minnesota, and Oregon



July 4, 1865 - 36 States with Kansas, West Virginia & Nevada



July 4, 1867 - 37 States with Nebraska



July 4, 1877 – 38 States with Colorado



July 4, 1890 – 43 States with Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, & Washington.



July 4, 1912 – 48 States with Wyoming, Utah, Oklahoma, Arizona & New Mexico (47 Years)



July 4, 1960 to present 50 States with Alaska and Hawaii (50Years)

Information obtained from www.wikipedia.org/wiki/flag_of_the_United_States