

★ The Pledge of Allegiance & Creed ★

Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to introduce students to the Pledge of Allegiance and to help them memorize it. The students will explain the words of the pledge in the Federal Flag Code.

Objective

The student will recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Students will identify the Pledge as a symbol of unity and explain the ideas expressed in it.

Theme - Unity

The Pledge is a national symbol that represents unity among the citizens of the nation.

Core Knowledge

Grade 1 - Amer Hist & Geog. Sec III: From Colonies to Independence. American Revolution. What does the pledge and the flag represent? What basic ideas of the Founding Fathers are included in the pledge?

Grade 5 - Amer Hist & Geog. Sec II:

The Civil War. Causes, Conflicts, and Consequences. What ideals expressed in the pledge were important factors leading to the decision to have a civil war?

Time

45 minutes

Materials

- ★ History of Pledge of Allegiance/
- ★ Copy of the pledge to identify words & synonyms
- ★ Pledge of Allegiance puzzles
- ★ United States Flag
- ★ Dictionary
- ★ Enrichment: American's Creed handout
- ★ Website - www.americanheritage.org

Preparation

- ★ Copy the Pledge of Allegiance handouts.
- ★ Copy and cut out the Pledge of Allegiance puzzle.

Focus

Students are to gain an understanding of the idea of Unity that is represented in the Pledge of Allegiance. Students will gain an understanding that the pledge is one way a citizen is able to make a public commitment to the ideas expressed in the pledge. (See Links page on www.americanheritage.org for additional resources on the Pledge of Allegiance and American's Creed.)

Display the Pledge large enough to read from anywhere in the classroom. Ask them what they know about the Pledge of Allegiance. Tell students that they will learn or review the words of the Pledge.

Activity

1. Discuss how one should stand when reciting the Pledge. Have all students stand facing the flag, with their right hands over their hearts. Have students discuss and demonstrate the things one should not do while reciting the Pledge.
2. Read the History of the Pledge with students and ask them to circle important words and use the dictionary to find their definitions.
3. Enlarge the Pledge and have students from around the room read it. Give students a copy of the handout with the text of the Pledge. Have the class read the Pledge twice and try to memorize it.
4. Cut the Pledge into words and store in baggies. Give students the word puzzle for the Pledge. Have students re-assemble the puzzle and read the Pledge together again.
5. Have students remove one or two words from the puzzle and hide the removed words. Have students read the Pledge with the words missing. Repeat this process until students can recite the Pledge with most or all of the words missing. Students may continue this process over a series of days until they have memorized the Pledge. This activity can be used as a review as needed.
6. Replace the underlined words in the Pledge with synonyms. Does the Pledge's meaning change with these synonyms?
7. Have students read as a class or individually the American's Creed and discuss its meaning. Research the context within which the creed was written. What was the purpose or motivation for writing the creed? What current events were going on during that time?

Closure

Explain to the students that saying the Pledge is an important way for Americans to show respect for the flag and the United States and to remember the importance and strength of Unity. When we say the Pledge, we are reminded of important things about our country and are expressing our love for our country and our commitment to its ideals.

★ The History of the Pledge of Allegiance ★

The Pledge of Allegiance first appeared in the magazine *Youth's Companion* in September 1892. It was written by Frank Bellamy. It was first used in public schools on October 12, 1892 in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus.

The words of the Pledge have been

changed twice. In 1923, the words “my flag” were changed to “the flag of the United States of America.” The words “under God” were added in 1954 by an act of Congress.

The Pledge is now part of the Federal Flag Code passed by Congress on July 7, 1976. It can only be changed by proclamation of the President of the United States as Commander-in-Chief of the military.

The text of the Pledge is below.

*I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America
and to the Republic for which it stands,
one Nation under God, indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all.*

Define these words from the Pledge:

★ pledge

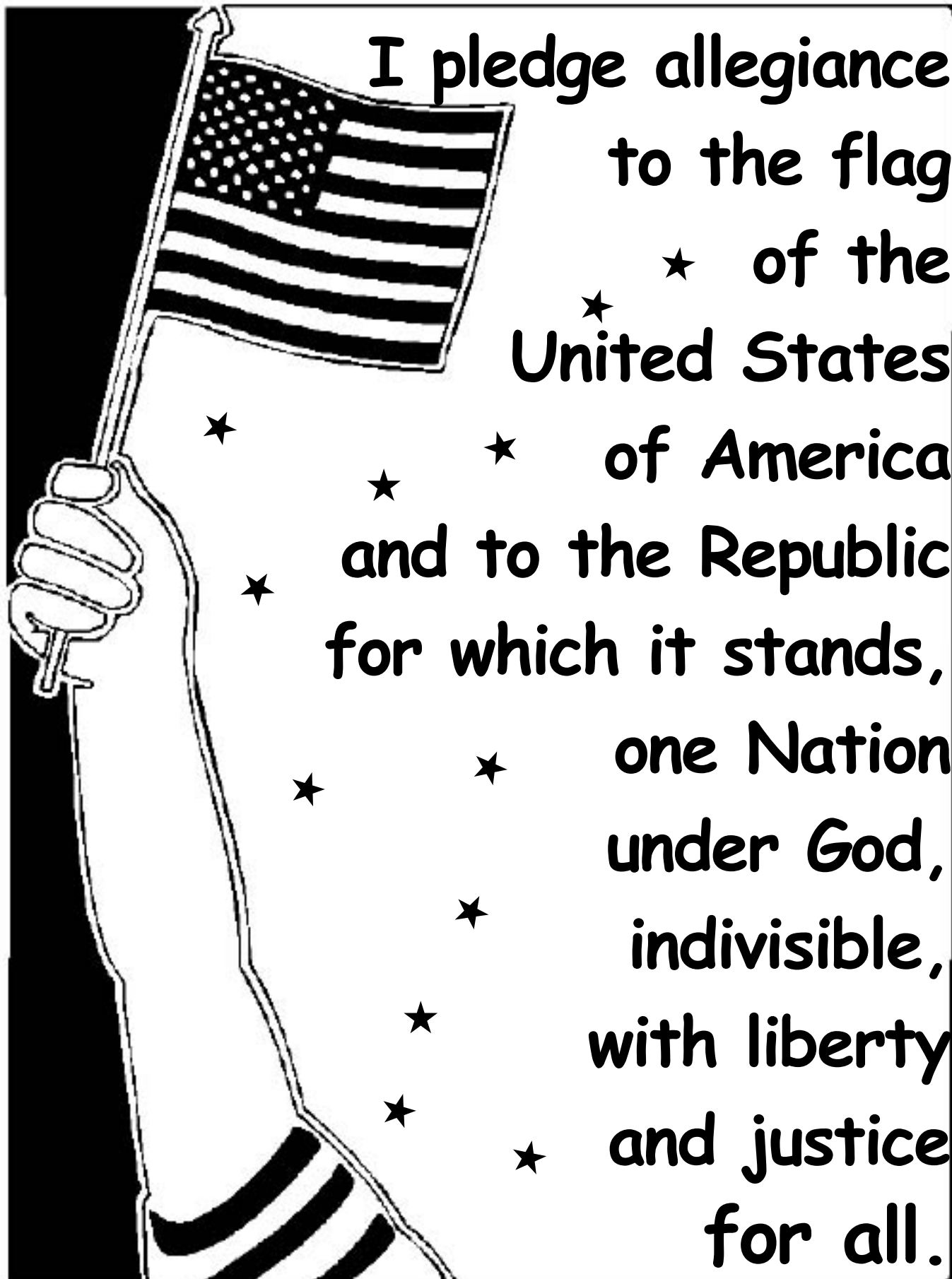
★ allegiance

★ republic

★ indivisible

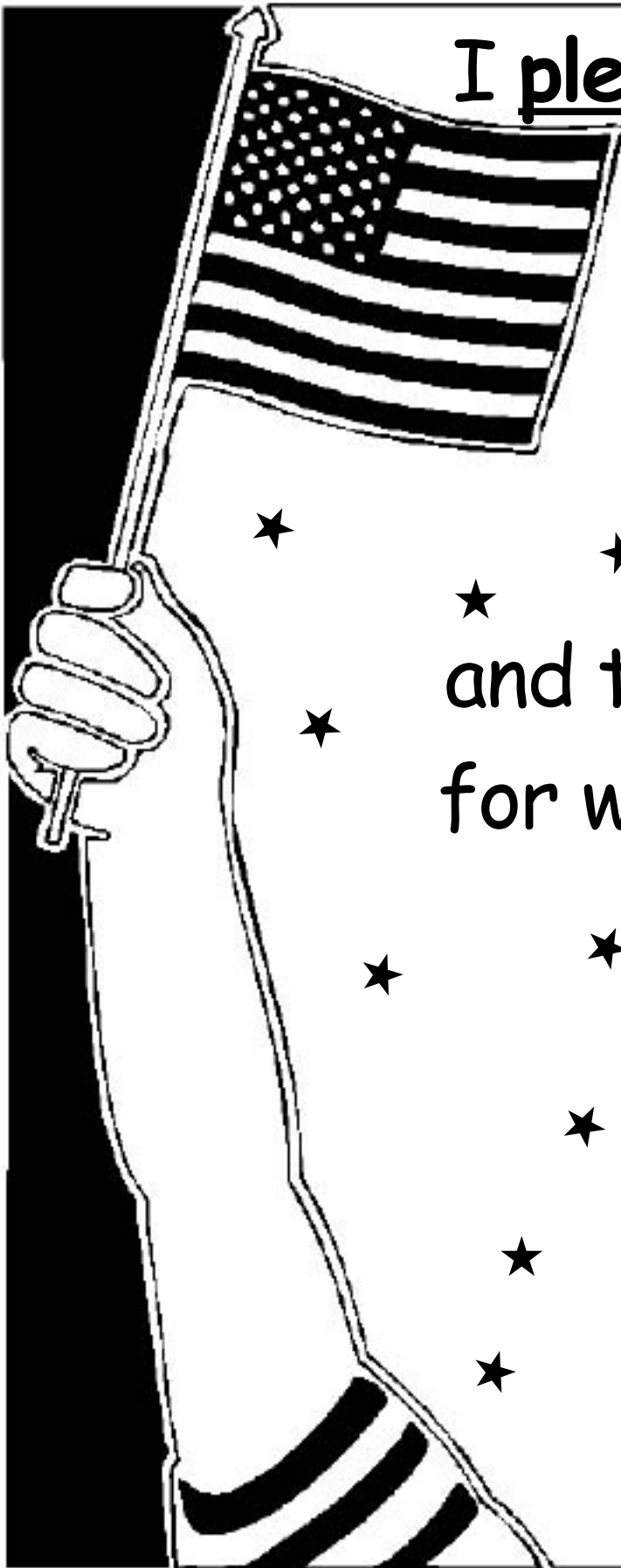
★ liberty

★ justice



I pledge allegiance
to the flag
★ of the
★ United States
★ of America
and to the Republic
for which it stands,
one Nation
under God,
indivisible,
with liberty
and justice
for all.

Synonyms?



I pledge allegiance
to the flag
★ of the
★ United States
★ of America
and to the Republic
for which it stands,
one Nation
under God,
indivisible,
with liberty
and justice
for all.

I pledge
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which	it
stands,	one
Nation	under
God,	
indivisible,	
with	liberty
and	justice
for	all.

The American's Creed

In 1916, when half the world was at war, there were many in America who believed that citizens should think more about their blessings, privileges, and obligations as Americans. By 1917, magazines and newspapers from coast to coast were announcing a contest for the writing of the best national creed, a “brief summary of American political faith . . . founded upon the fundamentals of American history and tradition.”

In March, the city of Baltimore offered the prize of \$1,000 for the winning creed. Every state in the Union responded. In all, 3,000 entries were submitted. Judges chose a 100 word creed by William Tyler Page compiled from phrases found in American documents and in the words of American patriots.

The American's Creed

by William Tyler Page, Clerk of the U. S. House of Representatives, 1917
Accepted by the House on behalf of the American People, 1918

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic, a sovereign nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

An Album for Americans: A Treasury of American Patriotism.

Edited by David H. Appel, 1983, Triangle Publications, Crown Publishers, New York, pp. 132 and 170.