

## I Pledge Allegiance...and Know What it Means

### Lesson Overview

- Overview:** This lesson will allow students to look at the words they say every morning, The Pledge of Allegiance, and analyze the meaning behind it.
- Grade Range:** 3-5
- Objective:** After completing this activity, students will be able to:
- Recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - Examine the words in small parts.
  - Compare the words of The Pledge to situations in their life.
  - Compare and contrast saying The Pledge.
  - Develop a prediction on why we say The Pledge of Allegiance every day.
- Time Required:** One class period of 40 minutes.
- Discipline/Subject:** Exploratory: Reading Workshop
- Topic/Subject:** Culture, Folklife and Literature
- Era:** Civil War and Reconstruction, 1861-1877, and Progressive Era to New Era, 1900-1929

### Standards

#### Illinois Learning Standards:

Language Arts:

- 1.B.2a-Establish purposes for reading; survey materials; ask questions; make predictions; connect, clarify and extend ideas.
- 1.B.3b-Identify structure (e.g., description, compare/contrast, cause and effect, sequence) of nonfiction texts to improve comprehension.
- 1.C.2a-Use information to form and refine questions and predictions.
- 1.C.2b-Make and support inferences and form interpretations about main themes and topics.

### Materials

- Handouts:** Pledge of Allegiance strips (1 pack per group)
- Analysis Tools:** Group W, B and O worksheets
- Books:** *The Pledge of Allegiance* by Norman Pearl

#### Library of Congress Items:

Title of Source: The Pledge of allegiance to the flag, 8<sup>th</sup> Division  
Creator of Source: Johnston, Frances Benjamin  
Date of Creation: 1899  
URL of Source: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2001703605/>

Title of Source: Mrs. Claire Cumberbatch, of 1303 Dean St., leader of the Bedford Stuyvesant group protesting alleged "segregated" school, leads oath of allegiance.  
Creator of Source: DeMarsico, Dick  
Date of Creation: 1958 September 12  
URL of Source: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2004670155/>

Title of Source: Three Thirds of the Nation. Members of the fifth grade, Chcremoya public school of Hollywood, pledge allegiance to the flag during the War Production Board's (WPB) presentation, Three Thirds of the Nation at Hollywood's Radio City on May 27.

Creator of Source: Bransby, David

Date of Creation: 1942 May 27

URL of Source: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/oem2002008673/PP/>

**Online Resources:**

Title: Pledge of Allegiance with Real Meaning – Red Skelton

URL: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROstn6astXE>

Description: Talks about the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance

**Procedures**

Procedure Step #	Resource or Material Used
1. Teacher will post three pictures of students saying The Pledge of Allegiance on the board.	LOC Items
2. Students will make a prediction as to what the students are doing in the picture.	LOC Items
3. The teacher will play "The Pledge of Allegiance with Real Meaning" YouTube video for the students.	Online Resource
4. Students will be given Pledge of Allegiance Strips.	Handouts
5. Students will be given about 10-15 minutes to match up the blue strips (The Pledge of Allegiance) to the red strips (the meaning).	Handouts
6. The teacher will go over the answers with the groups.	
7. Students will be separated into groups (Group W, B and O) based on their AR/Map levels.	
8. Students will complete their analysis tools.	Analysis Tool
9. The teacher will go back to the three pictures of the students on the board and ask the students why they would be standing tall, holding their hand over their heart, and looking at the flag. Why are these words so important that we need to say them each day? Do we always stand proud like the students in the picture? Why should we? What body language do you see in the picture that is different from now.	LOC Items

**Evaluation**

The teacher will evaluate the students learning by reflecting on discussion at the end of the unit. Also, the teacher will evaluate the students by their analysis tool.

**Extension**

After lesson is taught once, the teacher will reflect on what went well and what did not go so well. After that, the teacher will create other lessons based around the quote "A few words changed lives, how will yours?" and students will be working in centers in order to complete their own words.

**Author Credits:**

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<b>I pledge allegiance</b>
<b>To the flag</b>
<b>Of the United States of America</b>
<b>And to the Republic</b>
<b>For which it stands</b>
<b>One Nation</b>
<b>Under God</b>
<b>Indivisible</b>
<b>With liberty and justice</b>
<b>For all</b>

<b>I promise to be loyal</b>
<b>To the symbol of our country</b>
<b>Each state that has joined our country</b>
<b>To a country where people choose others to make laws for them</b>
<b>The flag stands for our country</b>
<b>A single country</b>
<b>Most of the people believe in</b>
<b>The country cannot be split into parts</b>
<b>With freedom and fairness</b>
<b>For each person in the country</b>

# GROUP O

Directions: Circle the correct blend for the beginning sound of each picture. Then write the blend on the line.



fl fr



fr fl



fr fl



fr fl



fl fr



fl fr



fr fl



fr fl



fl fr

# GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

WBO has 3 expectations:  
Be

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What are you most proud of at WBO?

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What are 3 other adjectives used to describe WBO:

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# GROUP WORK



How much do you know about our American Flag?

Discuss with your group:

1. What do the stars represent?
2. How many stars are there on the flag?
3. How many stripes are there on the flag?
4. What does the color blue represent?
5. What do the red stripes represent?
6. What do the white stripes represent?

Your goal is to write a pledge for WBO. Use the graphic organizer provided to help you think of ideas. You will be graded on the following:

- Graphic Organizer (10 pts)
- Using 5<sup>th</sup> grade words in your pledge (DO NOT use good, bad, nice, etc.)
- Writing your pledge based on what WBO represents (10 pts)

# GROUP B



How much do you know about our American Flag?

Discuss with your group:

1. What do the stars represent?
2. How many stars are there on the flag?
3. How many stripes are there on the flag?
4. What does the color blue represent?
5. What do the red stripes represent?
6. What do the white stripes represent?

Your goal is to create a flag for WBO. Use the graphic organizer provided to help you think of ideas. You will be graded on the following:

- Graphic Organizer (10 pts)
- Using symbols that describe WBO
- Creating your flag based on what WBO represents (10 pts)

# GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

WBO has 3 expectations:

Be  
Respectful



What are you most  
proud of at WBO?

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