

The Family Flag Storybook

Were your parents, grandparents, or other family members immigrants to America? What do the flags of their home countries look like? Combine parts of those flags with the American flag in a book that tells your story!

Make the Book: You will need a large sheet of paper,* a ruler, scissors, a dowel or a long pencil (to make the pole for the flag), yarn or ribbon, a hole punch, and writing and drawing tools.

See the video demonstration and download these instructions at SmithsonianEducation.org/Heritage.

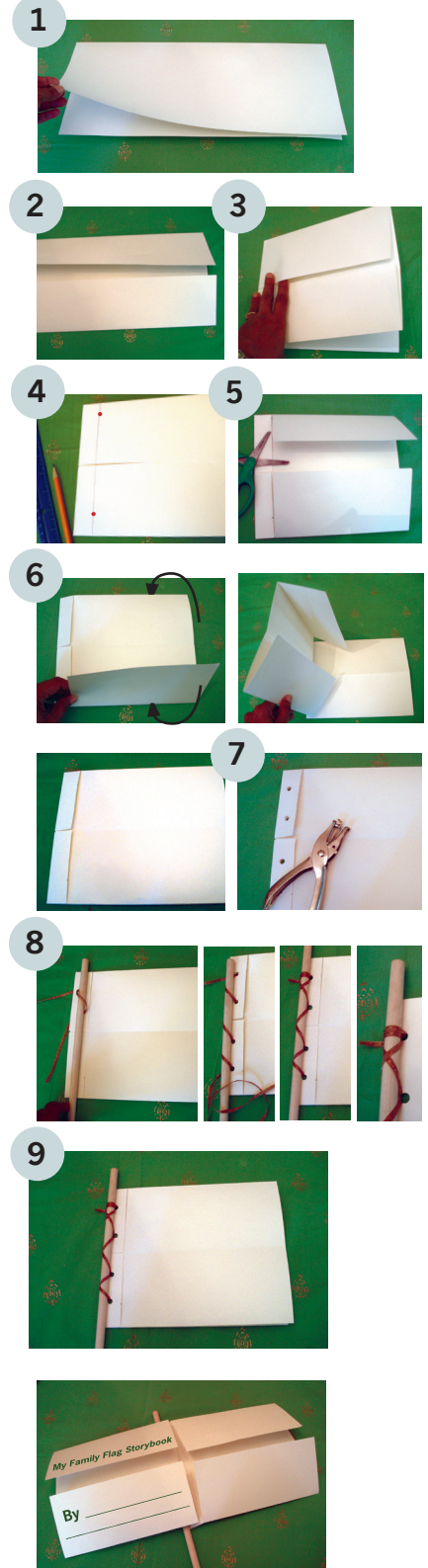
1. Fold the sheet of paper in half horizontally. Crease, and open it back up.
2. Fold the top edge of the paper down to meet the center crease. Crease. Fold the bottom edge of the paper up to meet the center crease. Crease.
3. Flip it over so the flaps lie on the table. Take the left edge of the folded sheet over to meet the right edge, folding it in half. Crease. The flaps should be visible on the outside but not the inside.
4. Measure one inch in from the fold and make a mark on the top of your book. Measure one inch in from the fold on the bottom and make a mark. Join the marks to make a line. Flip, and make a similar line on the back (one inch in from the fold).
5. Cut on the pencil line up from the middle on the top flap and down from the middle on the bottom flap. Do the same on the other side.
6. Open the top flap and fold it over the top edge to the inside. Open the bottom flap and fold it over the bottom edge and to the inside. Fold the back flaps over to the inside as well.
7. Now bind your book. Punch four holes on the remaining strip, spacing them out one below the other, in between the fold and the pencil line.
8. Place the dowel or long pencil over the holes. This will be the binding pole for your storybook. Weave the yarn in and out of the four holes, back to front, and top to bottom over the pole.
9. Then take the yarn back up the same way. Loop the end of the yarn in and out of the top hole one extra time to secure the pole. Then tie the two ends in a double knot. The pole should be tightly held in place.

Write the Story: Write the story using the four flaps inside the Flag Storybook. On the top left flap write, “My Family Flag Storybook.” On the bottom left flap, write “By” and your name. You are the author of the book.

On the flaps on the right write the name of family members and how they are related to you—a parent, grandparent, or other family member. Next to their names, draw (or glue) pictures of flags of their home countries. Open the four flaps and write their stories inside. Draw pictures where needed.

The cover of your book will be a unique flag. Use the designs, shapes, and colors from the flags you put inside your book and combine them with any of the elements of the American flag to design a flag of your own!

Share Your Story: Post pictures of your “Family Flag Storybook” on the Smithsonian Heritage Programming Facebook page.



*We recommend 14" x 17" or a similar size paper.