

Betsy Ross and the Flag by Harry Pringle



Who is Betsy Ross?

Betsy Ross, born in 1752, was a seamstress and owned an upholstery business with her first husband, John Ross. Her husband enlisted in the army after the Revolution began, and was killed while on duty one day. Even after her first husband's death, Betsy continued to run the business as a war widow. She married twice more after that.

It was while running her upholstery business that Betsy began to make flags and gain a reputation for producing quality flags. She began to make flags for the state of Pennsylvania. According to her grandchildren, Betsy Ross would tell her children and grandchildren that she was responsible for making the first American flag. Although the details of this story have not been entirely authenticated, legend goes (according to her grandson), Betsy met with a secret committee comprised of three members of Congress, including George Washington, Robert Morris, and her uncle George Morris. It was at this meeting that she was asked to sew the first American flag. George Washington showed her a design of the idea, and she then showed him how to cut a 5-pointed star. She finished the flag before the Declaration of Independence was read aloud for the first time.

While the authenticity of this story is in question, there is no doubt that Betsy Ross did have an upholstery business and she was acquainted with George Washington both socially and through business; her pew was beside the Washington's at church, and she also embroidered cuffs and ruffles for him. Today, the Betsy Ross house is an important historical stop in Philadelphia.

Why is Betsy Ross Important?

Whether or not the story is actually true, Betsy Ross has become an important part of history. The following are some reasons for this:

- * A new flag was important. At the time, the colonies used their own flags, many of which closely resembled the British flag, precisely who the new country was trying to gain independence from. For that reason, a flag to unite the country as one was needed.
- * The flag is a revered symbol. Hundreds of years later, the American flag is one of the most recognized and respected symbols there is. Having played a part in its creation makes Betsy Ross important.
- * Betsy Ross was a role model. In her lifetime, she faced the death of three husbands and two daughters. As a widow three times over, she still ran a business and managed as a single mother in a time of war and during a time where women did not have the same respect and freedoms as women today have.

Regardless of the truthfulness of the entire story of whether or not Betsy Ross made the first American flag, she remains an important female figure in the time of the America Revolution.



Lucky Shamrock

This craft is super simple and will help build your child's developing motor skills by using scissors.

You will need:

Pencil
Scissors
Glue
Light and dark green construction paper
Light blue construction paper

What you do

Have child place hand, palm side down, on the dark green construction paper and trace for a hand pattern. Repeat two more times to make three hand patterns. Have child cut out the hand prints. Using the light green shamrock leaf pattern, trace and cut out three leaves on light green paper. Trace the stem pattern on dark green construction paper, cut out. Glue them stem, then the three clover leaves, then the hand prints onto the blue construction paper. (See picture)
Have child write his or her name at the top or on the back.



Green Eggs and Ham a la Sam-I-Am



Ingredients

1-2 tablespoons of butter or margarine
4 slices of ham
8 eggs
2 tablespoons of milk
1-2 drops of green food coloring
1/4 teaspoon of salt
1/4 teaspoon of pepper

What You'll Need

knife, medium-size mixing bowl, wire whisk or eggbeater, large frying pan, spatula, aluminum foil, serving plates

1. With an adult's help, melt a teaspoon of butter in a large frying pan over medium heat. Add sliced ham and brown until edges are slightly crisp. Remove the ham from the pan, cover with aluminum foil, and set aside.
2. In a medium-size mixing bowl, combine the eggs, milk, salt, and pepper. Beat with a whisk until frothy. Then add 1-2 drops of green food coloring until you reach the desired shade of green.
3. With an adult's help, heat a tablespoon of butter or margarine in a large frying pan over medium heat until the butter begins to sizzle. Then add the egg mixture to the pan.
4. Stir the egg mixture with a spatula until the eggs are firm and not too runny.
5. Transfer the eggs to individual plates. Garnish with a sprig of parsley. Add the ham prepared earlier. Serve with toast or warm rolls.

Feeds 4 hungry green-egg lovers.

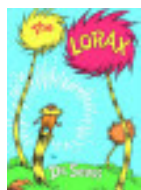
ImagiNation Learning Center
14425 Newbrook Drive
Chantilly, VA 20151
kindergarten.koalas@yahoo.com



To: Miss Maria's Koalas

The Book Nook:

The Lorax by: Dr. Seuss



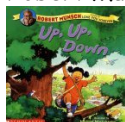
"Unless someone like you...cares a whole awful lot...nothing is going to get better...It's not." Long before saving the earth became a global concern, Dr. Seuss, speaking through his character the Lorax, warned against mindless progress and the danger it posed to the earth's natural beauty.

St. Patrick's Day in the Morning by: Eve Bunting



On March 17, young Jamie wakes up and realizes it's St. Patrick's Day. The green sashes are laid out on the table for his father and two older brothers--all ready for them to sport in the big parade. This is all very exciting, but Jamie's family had told him he was too small to walk in the parade--too young to make it all the way up Acorn Hill. He decides to take matters (and his trusty flute) into his own small hands, and embarks on an early morning walk--all the way up Acorn Hill--with his dog Nell. What did *they* know? Sure enough, while the village is sleeping, he traverses the parade route to the top of the hill where he greets the sun with a hearty "A happy St. Pat's to you, sun." And, he makes it home before breakfast! While no one finds out what Jamie has done, you suspect that he may tell his family later.

Up, Up, Down by: Robert Munsch



Little girl named Anna who loves to climb! Anna ignores her mother's constant earning to "Be careful! Don't climb!," even after she falls down from scaling the refrigerator and the side of the house. One day, Anna manages to climb all the way up a palm tree, but the descent leaves her frantically hanging from a leaf. When her parents come to the rescue, the tables are quickly turned when her mother and father are the ones hanging from the tree instead!



ImagiNation Learning Center
Editor: Miss Maria
Class: Kindergarten Koalas

Koala Kingdom

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Happy Birthday Lauren!



March 15

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What to Expect in Kindergarten this Month...

Lessons:

Betsy Ross
Animals & Habitat
Rhyming words
Sight words
Nouns
Equal and not equal
More and fewer

Activities:

Dr. Seuss 03/02
St. Patrick Party 03/16