



## NSDAR Educational Resources Committee

Braille Flag and Pledge

**Contributor:** Denise Leibold **Grade Level:** 6-8

### 1. Standards to Be Addressed

6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Michigan – Common Core Standards and State Standards  
F1.1.1 and U3.3.6

### 2. Statement of Objective

Students will learn how Braille works, its history and importance, its purpose and how blind individuals use it to read and learn. Students will experience, first hand, the use of Braille by closing their eyes and feeling the Braille Flag with their fingertips.

### 3. Materials and Resources

Braille Flag, video of Pledge of Allegiance, US history.org., and Section 4 of Flag Code.

### 4. Introduction to topic

Play video-Pledge of Allegiance, US history.org

### 5. Procedure for Instruction

Discuss the History of the Pledge of Allegiance, discussion, Section 4 of Flag Code, US history.org.

### 6. Lesson Closure

Students will present the history and importance of Braille and who invented Braille. Students will experience what it is like being blind by reading the Pledge of Allegiance on a Braille Flag.

### 7. Assessment

Students will identify an American Flag with the Pledge of Allegiance written in Braille. Students will identify a Braille American Flag. Students will identify the history of the Pledge of Allegiance. Student identify the benefits of reading the Pledge of Allegiance. Students will identify the benefits of using Braille. Students will identify the benefits of using the Braille American Flag with the Pledge of Allegiance written on it. Students will develop empathy for those who are blind.

## Lesson Plan: Pledge of Allegiance On a Braille American Flag

**SUBJECT:** History

**FOCUS & GOALS:** Students will learn what Braille is, its purpose and how blind individuals use it to read and learn. Students will learn what an American Flag with the *Pledge of Allegiance* printed on it looks like and practice feeling the letters and words written in Braille.

**OBJECTIVES:** Students will identify a Braille American Flag with the *Pledge of Allegiance* on it.

**INTRODUCTION:** Play video,  Pledge of Allegiance

**DISCUSSION:** History of the Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was written in August 1892 by the socialist minister Francis Bellamy (1855-1931). It was originally published in *The Youth's Companion* on September 8, 1892. Bellamy had hoped that the pledge would be used by citizens in any country.

In its original form it read:

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

In 1923, the words, "the Flag of the United States of America" were added. At this time it read:

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

In 1954, in response to the Communist threat of the times, President Eisenhower encouraged Congress to add the words "under God," creating the 31-word pledge we say today. Bellamy's daughter objected to this alteration. Today it reads:

**"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."**

Section 4 of the Flag Code states:

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: "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.", should be rendered by standing at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform men should remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute."

**ACTIVITIES:** Students will Present the History of Braille

📺 Who Invented Braille? | COLOSSAL QUESTIONS

Discuss the importance of blind individuals learning *the Pledge of Allegiance*. (***patriotism, respect, gratitude, admiration***)

Discuss the difficulty of blind individuals trying to learn *the Pledge of Allegiance*.

**(Blind individuals cannot read regular books.** Thus, without Braille writings, they would not be able to participate in learning the Pledge of Allegiance.)

**Braille is the key for blind individuals to read.**

Discuss **solution** to this problem: ***Pledge of Allegiance in Braille***.

**Present the American Flag with the *Pledge of Allegiance* in Braille-Given By RiverAuxSables DAR**

Allow all students to feel the Braille writing. Have students close their eyes so they can experience what it would be like to be blind and attempt to read in Braille.

**EVALUATION:** Students will identify an American Flag with the Pledge of Allegiance written in Braille.

Students will identify the American Flag.

Students will identify the history of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Students will recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Students will identify the benefits of reading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Students will identify the benefits of using Braille.

Students will identify the benefits of the American Flag with the Pledge of Allegiance written in Braille.