



**Contributor:** Mary Ann Mutrux **Grade Level:** 4<sup>th</sup>

**1. Identify the standards to be addressed:**

Grade 1 – Missouri – Addresses State Standard

4.H.3.C The Student will identify historically significant individuals who contributed to early American (not yet established country)

4.RI.6.D Content includes analyzing how culture has been maintained over time through celebration, tradition, and memorials. (examples includes US Flag)

**2. Statement of the objective and lesson outcomes:**

The students will read a table and discuss the meaning of the colors of the US flag. The student will read 10 descriptions of patriots in the Revolutionary War who demonstrated one or more of the flag colors' meanings by their actions. See the attached documents (worksheet activity: "Patriots: Red, White or Blue?" and the answer key).

**3. Materials, resources, and technology to be used by teacher/students:**

A picture of the original flag of the US, an US Flag, handouts of the worksheet activity (Patriots: Red, White or Blue?), worksheet activity answer key. Optional if available: color book pages from the DAR publication - Our Patriots: The Men and Women Who Achieved American Independence - A coloring book and colors.

**4. Introduction of the topic:**

Ask the student what their school colors and mascot are. Ask them why they wear those colors at ball games. Ask the students what their country's colors are. Point out the colors on the original flag and current US flag. Explain how the original flag has 13 stars for the first 13 colonies and the current flag has 50 stars for the 50 states. Explain that each color has a special meaning for both patriots during the revolutionary war and apply to our daily lives today as citizens.

**5. Procedure for instruction:**

Pass out the activity handout, "Patriots: Red, White or Blue?" Go over the directions and table on the front page. The table describes the meaning of the flag colors. Then have students work in pairs to do the activity on the back page. If available, provide students a copy of the DAR Coloring Book pages to read and color. Preferably pages of the patriots from the worksheet answer key.

**6. Assessment of Understanding:**

Have students explain why demonstrating these flag colors in our country's past, present and future is important for everyone's wellbeing.

# Worksheet Patriots: Red, White or Blue?

## Directions:

1. Read the table below that describes what the colors of the American flag represent.
2. Read each provided statement on the back about a known Revolutionary War patriot. Decide which flag color the patriot best represents by their actions.
3. Place the letter for the color in the provided space next to the statement. **R** for red, **W** for white and **B** for blue. In some cases, more than one flag color may be used.

Color Meanings	Definitions	Descriptions
<b>Red –</b> <i>“Hardiness and valor”</i>	<b>Hardiness</b> – The ability to endure difficult situations  <b>Valor</b> – Great courage in the face of danger; especially battle	<b>Being brave</b>
<b>White –</b> <i>“Purity and innocence”</i>	<b>Purity</b> – Free of alteration (change) or contamination  <b>Innocence</b> – Lack of corruption	<b>Thinking of others instead of oneself</b>
<b>Blue</b> <i>“Vigilance, perseverance and justice”</i>	<b>Vigilance</b> – The act or state of being careful and watching for possible danger or difficulty  <b>Perseverance</b> – Doing something despite of difficulty or delay in achieving success  <b>Justice</b> – The quality of being fair and responsible	<b>Being Truthful</b> <b>Never giving up</b> <div> <b>NOTE:</b> The stars on the flag represent the number of states in the USA. The first flag had 13 stars for the 13 colonies. Today the USA flag has 50 stars for the 50 states. The 13 alternate white and red stripes represent the original 13 colonies.           </div>

1. \_\_\_\_\_ This patriot made countless trips to fill up pitchers of water for soldiers on a hot day in June 1778.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ This Frenchman traveled to the colonies from France and fought for the Continental Army in six different battles.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ This patriot tried to escape after being caught and imprisoned by the British.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ This Cherokee woman warned patriot soldiers of a pending Cherokee attack on them.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Not only did he sign the Declaration of Independence but as a wealthy businessman he devoted time and resources towards improving living conditions for others.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ He made shoes for soldiers and then gave all his shoe making supplies to the Continental Army.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ He was only a 16-year-old boy when he enlisted in the Continental Army.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ George Washington, the general of the Continental Army, trusted her to copy his letters.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ With great risk to his being and property, he signed the **Declaration of Independence** with his hands trembling, not from fear but from Parkinson's disease. He declared, "My hand trembles but my heart does not."
10. \_\_\_\_\_ He was so well respected for his military leadership, actions, and efforts to support his army in the Revolutionary War, he was unanimously elected as the first president of the United States.

\*Raise your hand and ask to have your answers checked. Go over any mistakes and ask for an explanation if you still do not understand something.

\*If provided, read the patriot coloring page you are given and see if you can determine which statement represents your patriot! Color the patriot page!

<p><b><i>THINK: How do you show bravery? Are you truthful? Do you give up or persevere?</i></b></p>
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## ANSWER KEY - Patriots: Red, White or Blue?

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1. W This patriot made countless trips to fill up pitchers of water for soldiers on a hot day in June 1778. [*Molly Pitcher – Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley*]
2. R, B This Frenchman traveled to the colonies from France and fought for the Continental Army in six different battles. [*Marquis De Lafayette*]
3. R, B This patriot tried to escape after being caught and imprisoned by the British. [*Thomas Low*]
4. R This Cherokee woman warned patriot soldiers of a pending Cherokee attack on them. [*Nancy Wade*]
5. R, W Not only did he sign the Declaration of Independence but as a wealthy businessman he devoted time and resources towards improving living conditions for others. [*Philip Livingston*]
6. W He made shoes for soldiers and then gave all his shoe making supplies to the Continental Army. [*Benjamin Fell*]
7. R He was only a 16-year-old boy when he enlisted in the Continental Army. [*Gideon Burdick*]
8. B George Washington, the general of the Continental Army, trusted her to copy his letters. [*Martha Washington, George Washington's wife*]
9. R With great risk to his being and property, he signed the **Declaration of Independence** with his hands trembling, not from fear but from Parkinson's disease. He declared, "My hand trembles but my heart does not." [*Stephen Hopkins*]
10. RWB He was so well respected for his military leadership, actions, and efforts to support his army in the Revolutionary War, he was unanimously elected as the first president of the United States. [*George Washington*]

Have students make corrections on their sheet when you correct it. Clarify any misunderstanding. Use this key to see if they pick the correct statement for their patriot coloring page. Discuss with students: How do you show bravery? Are you truthful? Do you give up or persevere?

# Assessment: Patriots Red, White or Blue?

**Part 1:** Read each question below and circle the ONE best answer.

1. The color red in the US flag represents bravery. Which of the following words describes bravery?
  - a. Hardiness (enduring difficult situations)
  - b. Valor (great courage in the face of danger)
  - c. Justice (being fair)
  - d. Both A and B above
2. The color blue in the US flag represents being truthful and never giving up. Which of the following terms does NOT describe this trait?
  - a. Hardiness (enduring difficult situations)
  - b. Vigilance (being careful and watching for possible danger)
  - c. Perseverance (doing something despite difficult or delay in achieving success)
  - d. Justice (the quality of being fair)
3. The color white in the US flag represents thinking of others instead of oneself. Which of the following terms best represents this trait?
  - a. Justice (the quality of being fair)
  - b. Valor (great courage in the face of danger)
  - c. Purity (Free of alteration)
  - d. Vigilance (being careful and watching for danger)
4. Some patriots were captured, escaped and returned to battle willingly. Which of the following traits did they demonstrate?
  - a. Justice
  - b. Innocence and purity
  - c. Perseverance and hardiness
  - d. None of these
5. Which of the following statements is true?
  - a. Patriots fought for the British.
  - b. Not all patriots were soldiers.
  - c. The original US flag had fifty stars.
  - d. Signing the *Declaration of Independence* was not risk taking.

**Part 2:** Read the following information about a patriot and mark the poem as instructed.

Mary Ludwig Hays McCauley went with her husband to an encampment in New Jersey during the Revolutionary War. He was a gunner. During a hot day in June 1778, she took countless pitchers of water to the soldiers. Her husband collapsed and she took his place as a gunner firing at the British. She is nicknamed “Molly Pitcher”.

Read the following poem called “*Molly Pitcher*” that was written by Ethel Barnett de Vito and published in the *Extension* magazine in July 1943. After reading the poem go back and place a “**R**” next to any line that shows her bravery and “**W**” next to any line that shows her thinking of others rather than herself. Not all lines will be marked.

*When the guns stopped and all her work was told;  
How she had paced the smoking battlegrounds,  
Bringing to thirsty lips on endless rounds  
Bucket of water, welcomed more than gold –  
How she fired her husband’s gun to flame  
The day he fell ill, and how, other days, she cheered the gunner on in little ways,  
The General summoned and at once she came.  
Shyly she smiled at General Washington  
Tossing aside the gratitude displaced,  
Telling him to forget what she had done “Indeed it was nothing, sir,” she said,  
The man behind the man behind each gun  
If truth were told, is actually ---- a maid -----”*

## KEY: Assessment - Patriots: Red, White or Blue?

Part 1: 1. D 2. A 3. C D. C E. B

Part 2: Red = R, White = W

*When the guns stopped and all her work was told;  
R How she had paced the smoking battlegrounds,  
W Bringing to thirsty lips on endless rounds  
W Bucket of water, welcomed more than gold –  
R How she fired her husband's gun to flame  
W The day he fell ill, and how, other days, she cheered the gunner on in little ways,  
The General summoned and at once she came.  
Shyly she smiled at General Washington  
W Tossing aside the gratitude displaced,  
W Telling him to forget what she had done "Indeed it was nothing, sir," she said,  
The man behind the man behind each gun  
If truth were told, is actually ---- a maid ----"*

### Modifications:

- Have students use the worksheet table to help them answer the questions.
- Read the poem out loud to the students.

### Background Notes:

- Molly is a nickname for Mary.

**Follow Up Enrichment:** Discuss one or more of the following.

- Why was the water welcomed more than gold?
- Why was Molly considered a maid in the poem? Do you think George Washington really summed her up or is this the poet's imagination?
- This poem was published in 1943. How many years ago was that?
- The poem conveys Molly as both brave and modest. How do military families stand behind military service men today and show sacrifices in modern times?
- How can you demonstrate the colors of the flag in your daily life?