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This is a story about the woman who made the first American flag.



Betsy Ross and the First Flag

My name is Betsy Ross. I live in Philadelphia. I make my living by sewing.

One day, I was very busy sewing. I heard a knock on my door. There were three men at the door. One of them was George Washington.

George Washington was a brave man. He was fighting for America's freedom from Great Britain. He was also my friend.

“America is going to be a new country,” the men said. “The new country will need a new flag. Will you sew the new flag?”

“What kind of flag do you want?” I asked.

“We want a flag with stripes. We want stars on the flag, too,” they said.

“I want stars with six points,” said George Washington.

“I like stars with five points,” I told them. “Watch this.”

Then I folded a piece of paper and made one snip with the scissors. I had cut out a star. It had five points.

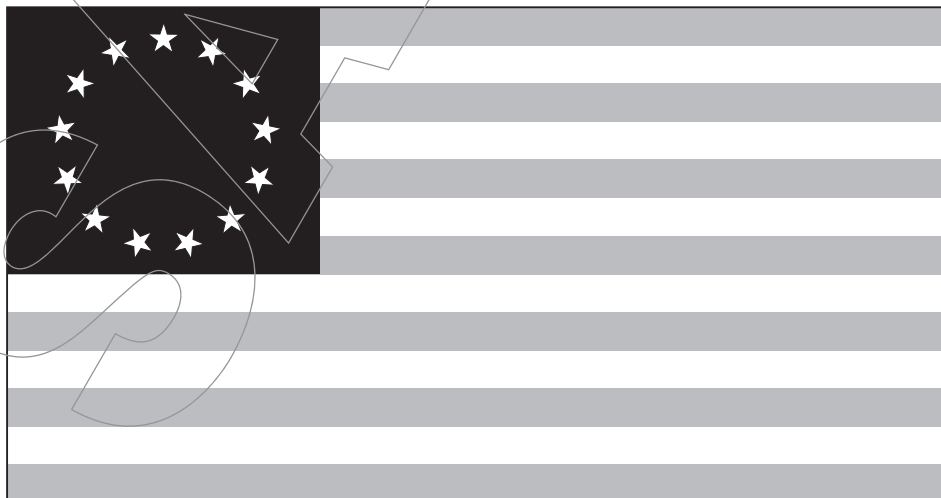
The men liked the star with five points.

“Put those stars on the flag,” they said.

I worked hard on the new flag. It was the first American flag.

America did become a new country. And George Washington was the first president. He was the Father of Our Country.

Here is what the first flag looked like.





Understanding the Story

Here are some questions about the story that you just read. Read each one. Then fill in the circle beside the best answer. If you are not sure, go back and look at the story again.

1. This story is mostly about how
- (A) Betsy Ross learned to sew
 - (B) Betsy Ross made the first American flag
 - (C) the flag got stars with six points
 - (D) George Washington was a brave man

Inference

2. Betsy Ross “makes a living” by sewing. This means that

- (A) she uses the money she gets from sewing to buy the things she needs
- (B) sewing gives meaning to her life
- (C) she loves to sew
- (D) she would die if she did not sew

Critical Reasoning

3. Why did George Washington want a new flag?

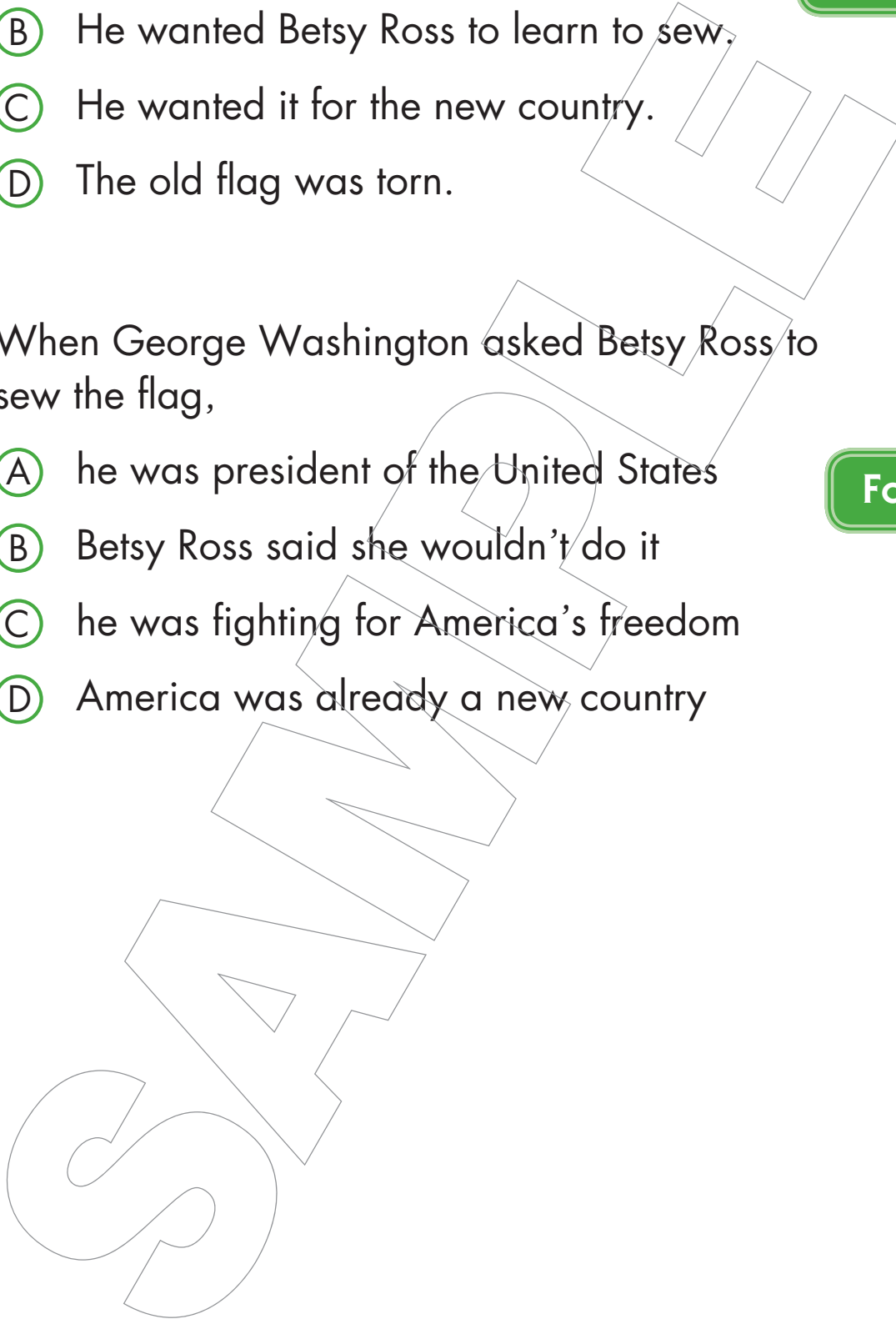
- (A) He lost the old flag.
- (B) He wanted Betsy Ross to learn to sew.
- (C) He wanted it for the new country.
- (D) The old flag was torn.

Inference

4. When George Washington asked Betsy Ross to sew the flag,

- (A) he was president of the United States
- (B) Betsy Ross said she wouldn't do it
- (C) he was fighting for America's freedom
- (D) America was already a new country

Factual



5. How many stars did the new flag have?

- (A) 10
- (B) 11
- (C) 12
- (D) 13

Critical Reasoning

6. Who is telling the story about Betsy Ross?

- (A) George Washington
- (B) Betsy Ross
- (C) the flag
- (D) one of the men

Inference



Summing Up



Can you remember what came **first** in this story? Here are some facts from the story. Put a 1 next to what came *first*. Put a 2 next to what came *second*. The first set is done for you.



Betsy Ross heard a knock on her door.	2
One day, Betsy Ross was sewing.	1
America became a new country.	
Betsy Ross sewed the first American flag.	
George Washington fought for America's freedom.	
George Washington was president.	
George Washington asked Betsy Ross to sew a flag.	
George Washington came to see Betsy Ross.	



Write About It

When you write a story, you tell what comes **first**. Then you tell what comes **second**. Finally, you tell what happened **after that**. Imagine you are writing about yourself. Finish each sentence below. When you are done, you will have a story.

One day, _____

It was _____

After that, _____

Then I _____

At last, _____

