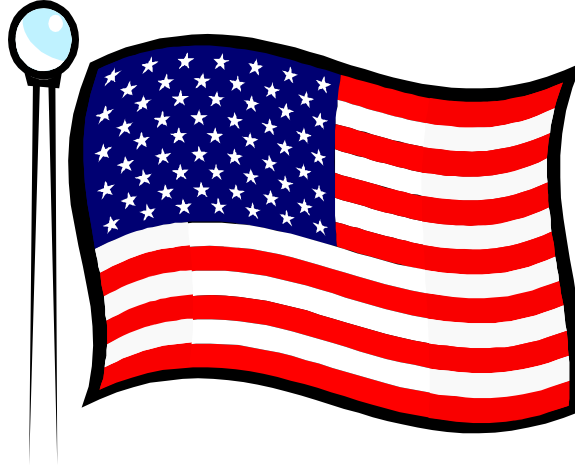


The USCIS 96: Questions 1-4

Key Words: Flag, Red, White, Blue, Stars



Question 1: What are the colors of our flag?

Answer 1: Red, white, and blue

We call the American flag the “Stars and Stripes.” Congress chose the “Stars and Stripes” design for our flag on June 14, 1777. Americans celebrate June 14th as Flag Day. Much later, Congress explained the colors: red stands for hardiness and valor, white for purity and innocence, and blue for vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

Question 2: What do the stars on the flag mean?

Answer 2: One for each state

The white stars on the flag represent the United States as being like “a new constellation” in the sky. The nation was seen as a new constellation because the republican system of government was new and different in the 1770s. Very few other countries were republics at that time. In the republican system of government, leaders work to help all of the country’s people. They do not act to help only a few special citizens. Since the people themselves choose these leaders, the people hold the power of government.

Question 3: How many stars are there on our flag?

Answer 3: There are 50 stars on our flag.

Each star represents a state. This is why the number of stars has changed over the years from 13 to 50. The number of stars reached 50 in 1959. In that year, Hawaii joined the United States as the 50th state.

Question 4: What color are the stars on our flag?

Answer 4: The stars on our flag are white.

The stars represent the Founding Fathers’ view of the American experiment in democracy. To them, the goal of a republic based on individual freedom was a noble, lofty idea. Stars are considered a symbol of the heavens and the high, ambitious vision that our Founders were trying to reach.

See: <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/symbols/flag.html> (Good for EL Civics Students)
http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=105_cong_documents&docid=f:sd013.105.pdf (Senate)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_the_United_States (Includes images of the Flag as each state’s star is added)