

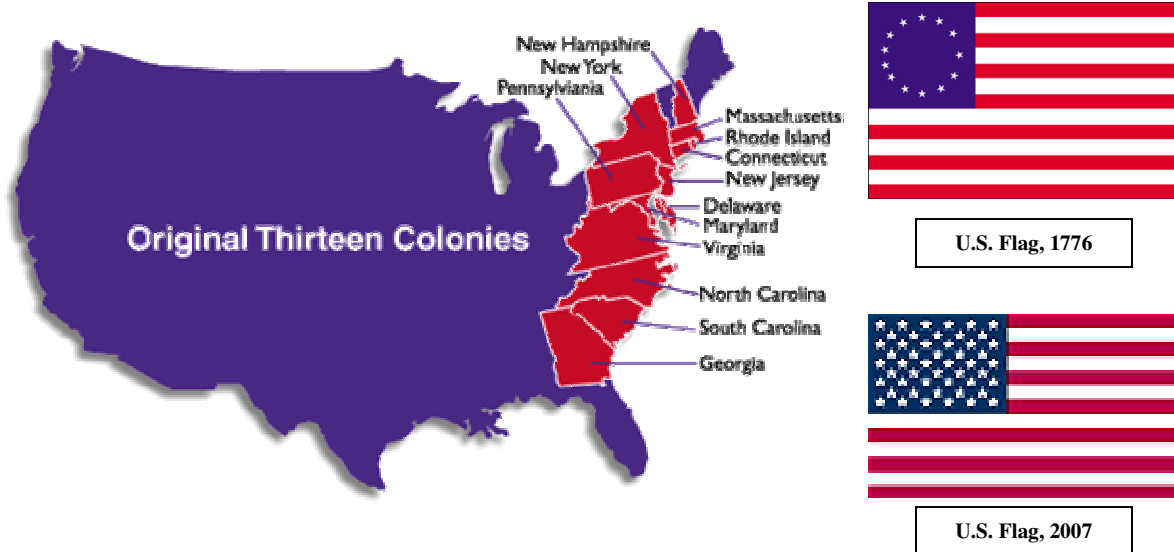
The USCIS 96: Questions 5-7

Key Words: Flag, Stripes, States

Question 5: How many stripes are there on our flag?

Answer 5: There are 13 stripes on our flag.

For 18 years after becoming an independent country, the United States had only 13 states. In 1794, Kentucky and Vermont joined the United States, making the number of states 15. At that time, Congress increased the number of stars and stripes on the flag from 13 to 15. The number of stripes was not changed again to 13 for many years.



Question 6: What do the stripes on the flag represent?

Answer 6: The first 13 states

In 1818, Congress decided that the number of stripes on the flag should always be 13. This would honor the original states, no matter how many new states would join the United States later. These original 13 states had been colonies of Great Britain before America's independence.

Question 7: What colors are the stripes on the flag?

Answer 7: The stripes on the flag are red and white.

The pre-independence American flags also had stripes. The "Boston Liberty" flag, for example, was flown in the early part of the American Revolution. This flag was flown by a famous group of patriots called the Sons of Liberty. This group and others felt that British laws treated the American colonists unfairly. They were also angry at being taxed by the British while having no say, or representation, in the government.

See: <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/books/geography/usflag/> (Appropriate for children & adults!)
<http://www.usflag.org/history/the13starflag.html> (Historic flags & websites of the first 13 states)
<http://boston1775.blogspot.com/search/label/flags> (Fascinating blog of the American Revolution)