

## ¿Qué puede decirnos una bandera? (What can a flag tell us?)

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### Objectives

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to:

- identify the elements of the Nicaraguan and U.S. flags.
  - analyze how these elements represent the country.
  - draw conclusions about the country based on these elements.
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### Materials

- Student Handout: **¿Qué puede decirnos una bandera?** (for Spanish language classes)
  - Student Handout: **What Can a Flag Tell Us?** (for Social Studies classes)
  - U.S. and Nicaraguan flags (or pictures thereof)
  - Student Handout: **Vocabulario**
  - Student Handout: **Flag Research**
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### Activities

1. Display the U.S. and Nicaraguan flags where all students can see them.
2. Distribute the student handout entitled **¿Qué puede decirnos una bandera?** and **Vocabulario** (or **What Can a Flag Tell Us? For Social Studies classes**). Direct students to read the dialogue. Ask comprehension questions, such as:
  - a. ¿Cómo se llaman los chicos?
  - b. ¿Dónde están?
  - c. ¿De dónde es Julia?
  - d. ¿De qué hablan?
3. On the chalkboard or overhead transparency, generate a list of characteristics of the Nicaraguan flag.
  - a. 3 stripes, 1 white between 2 blue
  - b. 1 triangle
  - c. 5 volcanoes
  - d. 1 rainbow
  - e. 1 cap with rays coming out of it
  - f. words: República de Nicaragua, América Central

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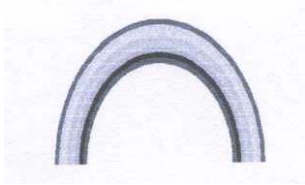
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**Activities  
(continued)**

4. Ask students to explain the significance of each characteristic.
    - a. 3 stripes, 1 white between 2 blue = land between two oceans.
    - b. 5 volcanoes = 5 major volcanoes of Nicaragua and the 5 countries of Central America.
    - c. 1 rainbow = peace
    - d. 1 cap with rays coming out of it = freedom and liberty.
  5. Ask students describe what they know of Nicaragua based on this list. Student responses may include:
    - a. Nicaragua has many volcanoes.
    - b. The volcanoes have impacted the country and its history.
    - c. Being a part of Central America has been important to Nicaragua.
  6. Repeat the activity for the U.S. flag.
    - a. 13 stripes in red and white = 13 original colonies
    - b. 50 stars on a field of blue = 50 states
    - c. **Teacher's Note:** Although there are theories as to why red, white, and blue, were chosen for the U.S. flag, authoritative sources indicate that there was no official meaning.
  7. Ask students to explain which flag, in their opinion, provides more information about the country.
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# Vocabulario

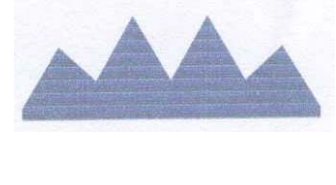
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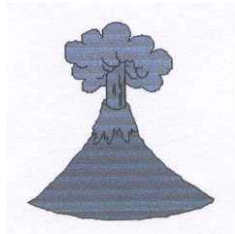
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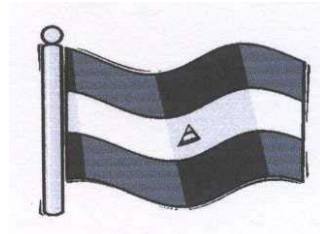
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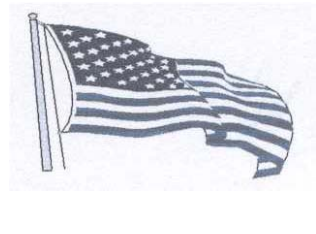
una cordillera de montañas



el volcán



la bandera nicaragüense



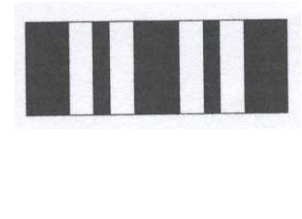
la bandera estadounidense



América Central



una onda del océano



las bandas



la estrella



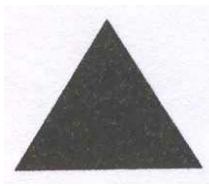
la biblioteca



encontrarse, saludarse



el escudo



el triángulo equilátero



esparcir



## ¿Qué puede decirnos una bandera?



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Cuando dos chicos, Ahmed y Julia, entran en la biblioteca, encuentran a otra chica, Roberta.

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- Roberta:** Hola, Ahmed.
- Ahmed:** Hola, Roberta. Quiero presentarte a mi amiga Julia. Es nicaragüense.
- Julia:** Much gusto conocerte, Roberta. ¿Como estás?
- Roberta:** Estoy fantástica, Julia. Gracias. ¿Y tú? ¿Qué hacen?
- Ahmed:** Hacemos una investigación sobre las banderas de nuestros países.
- Roberta:** ¿Oh? Yo sé que Nicaragua está en American Central, pero no más. ¿Cómo es su bandera?
- Julia:** Sabes, ¡puedes aprender mucho de Nicaragua si entiendes su bandera! Mira. Hay una banda blanca con un escudo entre dos bandas azules.
- Ahmed:** Estudiamos el escudo primero.
- Roberta:** Veo una cordillera de cinco montañas verdes en un triángulo equilátero.
- Julia:** Sí. Esos son volcánes. Hay cinco volcánes importantes en Nicaragua. Además, esas volcánes representan los cinco países de Centro America: Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, y Costa Rica.
- Ahmed:** ¿Por qué están estos países representados en la bandera de Nicaragua?
- Julia:** El 15 septiembre de 1821, esos cinco países proclamaron su independencia. Aun hoy, los países de América Central trabajan juntos. Y mira, hay aguna en los dos lados de los volcánes. Nicaragua, también, está entre dos mares.
- Roberta:** Right! The Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans.
- Julia:** Un arcoiris cubre la cordillera, y bajo el arco está el gorro de la libertad esparciendo luces.
- Ahmed:** Afuera del triángulo, esas plabras indican de nuevo la unidad de la región. Dice, “República de Nicaragua. América Central.”
- Roberta:** Saben. La bandera de mi país, los Estados Unidos, también ensena algo del país.
- Ahmed:** Sí. Hay trece bandas blancas y rojas y había trece colonias originales.
- Roberta:** Y aquí, en la parte azul, hay cincuenta estrellas blancas.

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- Julia:** Conozco la razón: uno para cada uno de los estados que son unidos en el país.
- Roberta:** Sí. Al principio, había solamente trece estrellas. Pusieron otra estrella por cada estado nuevo.
- Ahmed:** Está bien. Conocemos más de Nicaragua. Ahora, ¡al trabajo! Estudiamos otras banderas para ver lo que podemos aprender de sus países.
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## What Can a Flag Tell Us?



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When two students, Ahmed and Julia, enter the library, they meet another student, Roberta.

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- Roberta:** Hello, Ahmed.
- Ahmed:** Hello, Roberta. I would like you to meet my friend Julia. She's Nicaraguan.
- Julia:** Pleased to meet you, Roberta. How are you?
- Roberta:** I'm fine. Thanks. What are you doing?
- Ahmed:** We're doing some research about the flags of different countries.
- Roberta:** Oh? I know that Nicaragua is in Central America, but little else. What's its flag like?
- Julia:** You know, you can learn a lot about Nicaragua if you understand its flag. Look. There is a white stripe with a coat of arms between two blue stripes.
- Ahmed:** Let's look at the coat of arms first.
- Roberta:** I see 5 green mountains in an equilateral triangle.
- Julia:** Yes. These are volcanoes. There are 5 important volcanoes in Nicaragua. Also, these volcanoes represent 5 countries of Central America: Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica.
- Ahmed:** Why are these countries represented on the Nicaraguan flag?
- Julia:** On September 15, 1821, these 5 countries declared their independence. Even today, the Central American countries work together. And look, there is water on both sides of the volcanoes. Nicaragua is also between two oceans.
- Roberta:** Right! The Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans.
- Julia:** A rainbow is over the mountains. Below the rainbow is a cap of liberty with light shining out from it.
- Ahmed:** Outside the triangle are words that again show the importance of Central American unity. It says, "The Republic of Nicaragua. Central America."
- Roberta:** You know. The flag of the United States also teaches something about the country.
- Ahmed:** Yes. There are thirteen red and white stripes to represent the original thirteen colonies.
- Roberta:** And here, in the field of blue, there are fifty white stars.

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**Julia:** I know why. There is one star for each of the fifty states that make up the United States of America.

**Roberta:** Yes. Originally, there were only thirteen stars. One star was added for each state that joined the union.

**Ahmed:** Great. Now we know more of Nicaragua. Let's get to work. We need to research other flags to see what we can learn of their countries.

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