

## Hands-on Items

**14 Flags** – This trunk includes 14 full-size cloth flags that represent the 14 flags over Oklahoma. You may display these in the classroom and let the students pick them up and examine them.

**Royal Standard of Spain, circa 1513** – According to the Oklahoma Historical Society, this was the first flag to fly over Oklahoma. A Spanish explorer named Coronado brought it to Oklahoma in 1541. The red-and-white quartered flag has a golden castle on the red and a red lion on the white. The castle and lion represented royal houses Castile and Leon, from which the King of Spain descended.



**The Great Union Flag of Great Britain** – This flag flew over Oklahoma beginning in 1663 when King Charles II gave his friends a wide strip of country called Carolina, which stretched from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

**French Flag** – Bernard de la Harpe brought this flag to the region in 1719 when he visited an Indian village on the Arkansas River near present-day Haskell in Muskogee County. However, the French claims on this area go back to 1682 when La Salle claimed all the country drained by the Mississippi River and its branches in the name of France.



**Cross of Burgundy, circa 1506** – In 1763 France gave all the country west of the Mississippi to Spain at the end of the Seven Years' War via the Treaty of Paris. Both French and Spanish explorers had

established trading posts in the area. This was the flag used by Spain in its colonies and thus the fourth flag to fly over Oklahoma. The design is a red saltire (diagonal cross) and is supposed to resemble knotted tree branches.



## **Napoleonic French Flag –**

This flag flew over Oklahoma after Spain gave the Louisiana Province to France under the terms of the Treaty of San Ildefonso. Spain had previously acquired the territory in 1763 via the Treaty of Paris.

**US Flag, 1794** – This flag flew over Oklahoma after the United States obtained the territory from France in the Louisiana Purchase. Congress established this flag in 1794, and it has 15 stars and stripes to represent the 15 states of the Union.



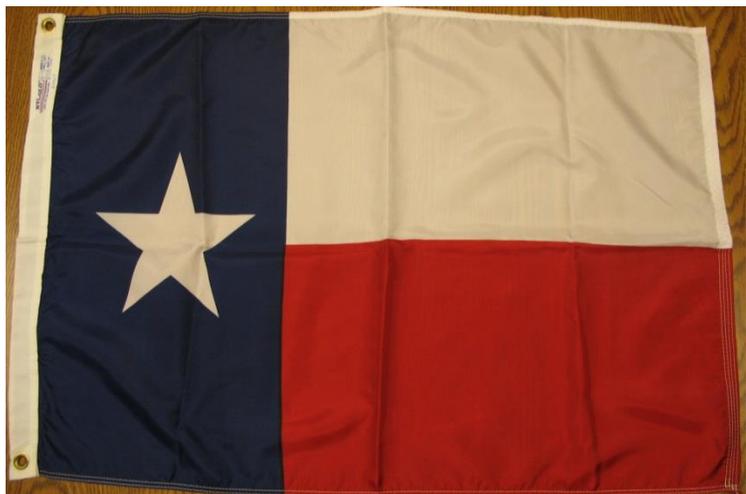
**US Flag, 1818** – Congress passed a new law on April 4, 1818, and changed the US flag's design. It reduced the number of stripes to 13, representing the 13 colonies. It also gave the flag 20 stars that represent the 20 states in the Union.

**Mexican Flag** - The flag of the Republic of Mexico flew over the Panhandle from 1821 to 1836. It has green, white, and red stripes with an eagle perched on a cactus and eating a snake. This image is from an Aztec legend.



**Republic of Texas Flag** - The ninth flag appeared in 1836. It was the flag of the Republic of Texas and it flew over the area that included the Panhandle when Texas declared independence from Mexico.

**Lone Star Flag** - The second flag of the Republic of Texas flew over the Panhandle from 1836 until 1850. It has a single white star called the Lone Star. From 1850 to 1890 the Panhandle did not belong to any state or territory.





**Choctaw Flag** – Choctaw troops of the Second Indian Cavalry Brigade carried this flag during the Civil War as they fought for the Confederacy. It was the eleventh flag to fly over Oklahoma.

**Confederate States of America Flag** - This flag flew over Indian Territory during the Civil War. The seven white stars represent the first seven states that seceded from the Union.





## Oklahoma's First State

**Flag** - Although Oklahoma became a state in 1907, Oklahomans did not adopt the first state flag until 1911. It is the thirteenth flag to fly over Oklahoma. This flag is red and has a five-pointed white star in the middle with

the figure 46 in blue in the middle of the star. Oklahoma was 46th state in the union. Some people did not like it so they had it changed to the flag that we use today.

## Oklahoma's Current State

**Flag** - The fourteenth flag is the current state flag.

Oklahoma adopted it in 1925. Louise Funk Fluke, an artist from Oklahoma City, designed the flag. It honors the sixty different groups of American Indians living in



Oklahoma. The blue field comes from a flag carried by Choctaw soldiers during the Civil War. The shield in the center is an Osage warrior's battle shield. It is made of buffalo hide and decorated with eagle feathers. Two symbols of peace rest on the shield. One is the calumet, or peace pipe, and the other is an olive branch. The crosses on the shield are American Indian signs for stars. The Oklahoma Legislature added the state's name to the flag in 1941.

## Additional Materials

***The Explorers DVD*** – This short film is about early explorers in Oklahoma who carried some of these flags.

***The Oklahoma Flag: Designed by a Fluke booklet*** – This booklet tells the story of the Oklahoma flag and its designer, Louise Funk Fluke. You may photocopy this booklet for classroom use.