

The United States of America Flag

- The red, white, and blue flag with 13 stripes and 13 stars was adopted on June 14, 1777 to commemorate the 13 colonies that became the United States.
- At first, they planned to add one stripe and one star for each new state. The flag grew to 15 stripes and stars before Lewis & Clark came west.
- In 1818, the current pattern was approved – 13 stripes and one star for each state.
- In 1959, both Hawaii and Alaska joined the Union.
- The current flag of 13 stripes and 50 stars went into effect on July 4, 1960.

The Chippewa Cree Flag

- The background is red.
- The seal represents the circle of life on the Rocky Boys reservation.
- Baldy Butte is the sacred mountain of the tribe and the sun represents life rising from the east to greet the Sun Spirit each morning from our homes and to wish for good health and life. The sun also represents the Sacred Grass Dance Drum of the tribe.
- The sun's rays represent the fifteen Sacred Grass Dance Chiefs who are active in preserving the culture of the Chippewa Cree tribe.
- The Sacred Four Bodies writing under the sun represents good health and good fortune for the tribe.
- The eagle, a long time sacred bird of the Indian people, represents strength, wisdom, bravery, and honor, which are all elements conceived from the sacred bird.
- The buffalo, a source of food and shelter for the Indian for many years, is a sacred animal in the universe representing the source of life.
- Bear paw tracks represent the Bear Paw Mountains where the Chippewa Cree now make their home.
- The sacred bear is highly regarded as a powerful spirit of the tribe. The teepee is where all values customs are derived from.
- The sacred pipes, held by our last official chiefs of the Chippewa and Cree, Chief Rocky Boy and Chief Little Bear.
- The braid of sweet grass is an element used to communicate to the Creator and the Spirits.
- The nine eagle feathers represent the nine elected Chiefs of the Chippewa Cree Business Committee.

Design Your Own Flag!

Who are you designing the flag for - yourself, your family, your school, another group? You need to think about what things are important to you or your flag group - sports, hobbies, pets, family members, home, vacations, and buildings. Think of as many things as you can that tell about you or your flag group. You will pick some of these things to draw as symbols for your flag.

Now, think about colors. What are your favorite colors? There should be a background color. And the symbols you choose should have color as well.

Use the coloring pages supplied or your own paper to design your own flag, using colored pencils, crayons, paints, or fabric or paper cutouts.

My flag is called: _____

Write the meaning of the symbols and colors you used in your flag:

The mission of the American Indian Tribal Histories Project is to preserve and maintain American Indian tribal histories and cultures from an American Indian perspective.

The Northern Cheyenne Flag

- The background is dark blue.
- The white symbol is the Morning Star. The Morning Star rises each day and brings light to the Cheyenne people now and those yet to be born.
- Morning Star is also known as Chief Dull Knife. He is the Northern Cheyenne Chief who led his people on a heartbreaking journey back from their forced placement in Oklahoma to their ancestral lands in Montana.

The Crow Flag

- The background is Crow blue.
- The pipe was offered as a first and respectful step in any significant petition of the Crow Indians.
- The sweat lodge is a purification place.
- The sacred medicine bundle represents all fraternities within the Crow Tobacco Society.
- The mountains represent the home of the Crow within three mountain ranges: the Wolf Mountains, the Big Horn Mountains and the Pryor Mountains.
- The rays of the sun represent 12 of the 13 original clans of the tribe. The 13th clan is the Greasy Mouth clan which is the rising sun.
- The war bonnets on each side of the center lodge represent the mother's clan chiefs on one side and the father's clan chiefs on the other, lending guidance, inspiration and protection to tribal members.



a program of the
Western Heritage Center



www.ywhc.org
2822 Montana Avenue
Billings, MT 59101
406.256.6809