

## The American Flag and Me

What does the American flag mean? I personally can not speak for you, but I can tell you what the American flag means to me. It has represented our country for a long time, and I recall seeing it for as long as I can remember. The flag has, in my mind, always been linked to the greatness of our country. To me the American flag stands for history, togetherness, work ethic, and the American Dream.

America's history - our country's past - is all around us. I learn about it every day at school, and hear about it on television. The American flag is displayed in war by our military. It has always stood for strength and power in hard times of battle in America's past. Also, the American flag is found on the moon. In 1969, Americans were the first people to walk upon the new terrain, so the flag is placed in honor of that. The flag holds a place of pride in America's past.

To me, the American flag can also represent the togetherness of our country. It stands for an unbreakable bond that is drawing the states and people together. I see this in the flag by looking at the stars. They represent the fifty states, and are all placed together in a sea of blue. The flag is found all around the United States in every town and city. It is found in schools, by post offices, and near fire and police departments. The fact that the flag is found everywhere, and is very common, brings people together.

A strong work ethic is another thing that comes to my mind when I think of the American flag. America, like Rome, was not built in a day. Many people worked hard to get us where we are. Blood, sweat, and tears have been shed in the building of America. To add to this many people have come to America in search of jobs. In my mind, this says a lot about the work being done in our country.

Last, and probably most important to me, the American flag represents the American Dream. I think of the American Dream just as the Declaration of Independence says, "...life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." The first Americans may not have had our flag, but had a dream just like ours today. A recent 2010 study shows that the American Dream is still based more upon spiritual happiness than material goods. When I look at our flag I think of the American people and with them, the American Dream.

To me the meaning of the American flag is very clear. History, togetherness, work ethic, and the American Dream all come together into a larger picture. America is my home, and to me the American flag represents that. I have known and respected these facts for a long time. I hope to keep these things in my heart and continue to learn and grow. This will help me to put even more meaning to a very important symbol; the American flag.

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