Flag of Boulder

Teacher notes for flag of Boulder lesson

The Museum of Boulder is inviting the community at large to submit designs for a new unofficial flag of Boulder. We hope that this will inspire conversations about history, heritage, identity, landscape, land use, and belonging. There are separate awards for elementary school submissions, amateur submissions, and a cash prize for the best overall design.

We encourage teachers to integrate this into a lesson relating to local history, natural resources, symbolism, identity, or the America 250 - Colorado 150 commemorations.

The activity sheets will lead you through the activity.

Begin by handing out the “Prior Knowledge Activity” (double sided). Tell them we will be working through a process to design our own flags of Boulder. We will begin by thinking about flags we know. After they fill out their sheets, put an image of the Colorado flag on the screen.

What do the symbols and colors in this flag mean?

- The letter “C” (it has three meanings): the name of the state, "Colorado", the word "centennial", referring to Colorado's accession to statehood in 1876, the year of the United States' centennial; and "columbine", referring to the state flower.
- The color red: "Colorado" (meaning "red" in Spanish, from the red earth of the State)
- The circle: the sun
- The color gold: the gold mining industry
- The color blue: the sky
- The color white (it has two meanings): both the peaks of the Rocky Mountains and silver mining industry
- The significance of the blue and white together: columbine flowers

Hopefully they noticed that the Colorado flag DOES NOT meet all the Five Principles, because it uses four colors.

The “Prior Knowledge Activity 2” mirrors the first activity, except they are asked to think of a flag they know from memory. Some students can draw the flags they chose on the board and describe the symbolism. Because the best flag is something simple enough for people to draw from memory, this helps illustrate which colors and symbols have stuck in their minds.

The “Brainstorming Activity” should be done after some introduction to Boulder history, as they are asked to know some local history. This activity will set them up for the step where they design a flag. Do not do a group share after this step so they choose unique perspectives and symbols.

Finish with the “Join the Museum of Boulder and design Boulder a new unofficial flag!” activity. These can be submitted individually, or you can take them to design a group design as a full class. Submissions must be emailed to flag@museumofboulder.org by Friday, April 24 at midnight mountain time as a JPEG, PNG, or PDF. Please include “Boulder Flag Design Submission” in the subject line of your email. Designers may submit up to five designs. Include a brief (no more than 300 words) explanation of the symbolism and meaning behind the flag design. Include in the email the designer’s name, email address, and phone number. If submitting as part of a team, include contact details for all members.

Flag of Boulder

Prior knowledge activity

1. Do you recognize this flag?

3. What do the symbols and colors in this flag mean?

- The letter “C” (it has three meanings):
- The color red:
- The circle:
- The color gold:
- The color blue:
- The color white (it has two meanings):
- The significance of the blue and white together:

Flag of Boulder

MUSEUM OF BOULDER at Tebo Center

Does the Colorado flag meet the Five Principles of a Good Flag? Mark "yes" or "no."

The Five Principles of a Good Flag are:

1. Keep It Simple. The flag should be so simple that a child can draw it from memory.

☐ yes ☐ no

2. Use Meaningful Symbolism. The flag's images, colors, or patterns should relate to what it symbolizes.

☐ yes ☐ no

3. Use 2 or 3 Basic Colors. Limit the number of colors on the flag to three which contrast well and come from the standard color set.

☐ yes ☐ no

4. No Lettering or Seals. Never use writing of any kind or an organization's seal.

☐ yes ☐ no

5. Be Distinctive or Be Related. Avoid duplicating other flags, but use similarities to show connections.

☐ yes ☐ no

Flag of Boulder

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Prior knowledge activity 2

1. Draw a flag you know from memory

3. What do the symbols and colors in this flag mean?

Flag of Boulder

MUSEUM OF BOULDER at Tebo Center

Does the flag you picked meet the Five Principles of a Good Flag? Mark "yes" or "no."

The Five Principles of a Good Flag are:

1. Keep It Simple. The flag should be so simple that a child can draw it from memory.

☐ yes ☐ no

2. Use Meaningful Symbolism. The flag's images, colors, or patterns should relate to what it symbolizes.

☐ yes ☐ no

3. Use 2 or 3 Basic Colors. Limit the number of colors on the flag to three which contrast well and come from the standard color set.

☐ yes ☐ no

4. No Lettering or Seals. Never use writing of any kind or an organization's seal.

☐ yes ☐ no

5. Be Distinctive or Be Related. Avoid duplicating other flags, but use similarities to show connections.

☐ yes ☐ no

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Brainstorming activity

1. Describe or draw three things from Boulder's history that interest you

2. Describe or draw three things that you think make Boulder unique or special to you

3. Describe or draw three recognizable things about Boulder's landscape

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Brainstorming to images activity

1. Draw three simple images (outline only) of things you brainstormed on page 1

2. Choose three colors that relate to the things you brainstormed on page 1

1	2	3

Meaning:

_____ _____ _____

3. Draw the three images you chose above again below, this time filling each one in with one of the colors you chose

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MUSEUM OF BOULDER at Tebo Center

Join the Museum of Boulder and design Boulder a new unofficial flag!

The Five Principles of a Good Flag are:

1. Keep It Simple. The flag should be so simple that a child can draw it from memory.

2. Use Meaningful Symbolism. The flag's images, colors, or patterns should relate to what it symbolizes.

3. Use 2 or 3 Basic Colors. Limit the number of colors on the flag to three which contrast well and come from the standard color set.

4. No Lettering or Seals. Never use writing of any kind or an organization's seal.

5. Be Distinctive or Be Related. Avoid duplicating other flags, but use similarities to show connections.

Design your flag on the other side. Describe its symbolism here:

Show us your vision for Boulder's flag!

More info and guidelines to submit your design

Name (optional): _____ Email (optional): _____

Age (optional): _____ Phone number (optional): _____

MUSEUM OF BOULDER
at Tebo Center

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Join the Museum of Boulder and design Boulder a new unofficial flag!

More info and guidelines to submit your design for a chance at the $500 prize

Social Change in the Arts

MUSEUM OF BOULDER
at Tebo Center

1. Identify three places where you see the intersection between the arts, historical storytelling, and social change. Either draw or describe:

2. What did or didn't work about how the arts, historical storytelling, and social change were addressed together?

3. Can you think of an exhibit where you have seen these three elements incorporated into the same exhibit? If not, what exhibit would you dream up that would incorporate those three elements together?

4. What did you learn about local Native American history or the cultures of our historic tribes in the Museum?

2. What did you notice about how Native American histories and cultures are represented in the Museum that was unique or noteworthy?

3. What exhibits have you seen before that integrate or are about Native American history? What was memorable for you about those exhibits?