

Name _____ Date _____

THE LEGENDARY BETSY ROSS



In June of 1776, a man named George Washington came to visit a seamstress. He had a very special request. Could she make a new flag for the new country? The new flag should have thirteen stars and thirteen stripes. This meant one for each of the colonies –now states. The new flag should be in the colors red, white, and blue. This seamstress, Betsy Ross, made the first flag.

Is this story true? Well...partly. Elisabeth Ross was a real woman. She had a hard life. Her three husbands died. Two of them died during the American Revolution. One died while serving in the military. The second died in a British prison. The third died after being ill for a long time. Betsy Ross had seven children. As a widow with a family to support, Betsy Ross became a seamstress.

She sewed for many people in her town, including George Washington. She made flags for ships and troops. She was very well known for her sewing abilities.

We know some facts about Betsy Ross. But did Betsy Ross sew the first flag? We can't know. But the picture of Betsy Ross, an early American woman who was brave in hard times, is an important part of American history.

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Answer the questions about THE LEGENDARY BETSY ROSS

1. According to legend, who made the first flag?

2. Who asked her to make the first flag?

3. How many stars and stripes were on the first flag?

4. Why were there that number of stars and stripes?

5. What colors was the first flag?

Answer the questions about BETSY ROSS

1. Was Betsy Ross a real person?

2. In what ways was her life difficult?

3. Do you think Betsy Ross is important? Why or why not?

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Answers to BETSY ROSS

1. Betsy Ross
2. George Washington
3. thirteen stars and thirteen stripes
4. one for each of the new states
5. red, white, and blue

1. She was a real person
2. Her three husbands died, she had children to support.
3. Answers will vary, accept reasonable answers.