



Patriotic Theme ~ Online Preschool Activities ~ MommyNature.com

~ on [Preschool Interactive Daily Activity Calendar](#) coinciding with Patriot's Day, Sept. 11
via the [Preschool Online Activities Class](#) ~

*Parent/Teacher Note: This is an abstract topic for preschoolers to grasp as they can hardly think beyond their neighborhoods! However, children build onto their base understanding each time they learn something. If nothing else, this will prepare them to learn and understand more next time. This theme is built using patriotic songs, the pledge, chants and pictures as an introduction to the idea of patriotism. I've listed all the activities we are hoping to do during our Patriotic Celebration Week. There are purposely more activities for each day than we probably have time for. Mix and match them to your child's/children's interests, offering a balanced mix throughout each day. For instance, choose some active and some quiet activities each day and be sure to read every day! Tailor each activity to your child's specific interests and abilities.

Main Idea: Recognizing American symbols; developing pride in cultural heritage

MATERIALS LIST/RESOURCES:

Books ([book links available in right sidebar menu](#)): [Meet Our Flag](#), [Old Glory](#), [The Pledge of Allegiance](#), [The Star Spangled Banner](#), [Benny's Pennies](#), [The Story of Abraham Lincoln](#), [This Land is Your Land](#), [America the Beautiful](#), [Yankee Doodle](#)

Optional: [You're a Grand Old Flag](#), [America, a Patriotic Primer](#), [We Sign Patriotic](#), [Kid's Statehood Quarters Collector's Folders](#), [The Story of Abraham Lincoln](#) or any of [Patricia Pingry's other patriotic books](#), [Reading Rainbow Shining Stories America](#)

Social/Emotional Development:

Show & Tell Thursdays: Children are to bring something that symbolizes patriotism.

Morning Meeting/Circle Time (daily skill work including: weather, calendar, counting, ABCs, patterning, colors, shapes, songs, music, finger plays, rhymes, creative Movement) (outside links): [Star Spangled Banner](#), [Yankee Doodle Dandy](#), [The Pledge of Allegiance \(audio\) - by Red Skelton](#), [The Pledge of Allegiance \(audio\) - by John Wayne](#), [You're a Grand Old Flag](#), [many patriotic midis here!](#)

Creative Activities/Art/Music/Drama/Aesthetic Learning (including Fine / Large Motor Activities):

I've been creating playlists on my iPod with my thousands of songs. I'm not affiliated in any way with iPod, Apple, etc. I'm just a happy customer that highly advises creating a playlist! I'm trying to figure out how to share the playlists that I create with you (if you are of the iPod mentality!).

[Make a Patriotic Windsock](#), [Make a Piggy Bank](#),

Theme Center: Patriotism Set out several of the optional books for children to look through. They will gain a sense of patriotism, symbols of our country and pride of their heritage by discovering the running theme through each book. Include flags, a listening center of patriotic songs and pictures of presidents also. A fun addition would be a flannel-board flag (black rectangle for the base, 7 red stripes, 6 white stripes, 1 blue rectangle, 50 stars - consider using yellow/gold fabric paint and painting them all on the blue rectangle) so children can reconstruct it. If you need a pattern for this, [try here](#).

Cognitive/Intellectual Learning:

Language Arts/Literacy Activities/Social Studies: [Pledge of Allegiance](#), [The Star Spangled Banner](#),

Science/Math/Social Studies: [Coin Book](#), [Coin Cubes](#),

Internet Links - supplementary (outside links): Depending on your child(ren), consider creating a favorites folder based on patriotism so you can find the sites quickly for your child to peruse. [The United States Mint's Site for Kids](#), [Pledge of Allegiance in sign language](#), [Flag Etiquette](#),

Vocabulary Words: (Spanish and [sign language](#) - Each English word links to the word specific link for how to sign that word. For the home page with links to nearly any word in the [ASL browser, click here](#).): *symbol, America, patriotism / Patriot, pledge, "Old Glory", flag, banner, allegiance, president (Lincoln, Washington), penny, nickel, dime, quarter, red, white, blue, star*

Motivation/Introduction ~ First Day of Theme: [Meet Our Flag, Old Glory / Patriot's Day](#)

Benchmark Skills:

3.28 Shows pride in heritage and background

Intro - Old Glory: Introducing the American Flag and the Pledge of Allegiance

Show the American Flag. Have the children describe it to you and tell you what they think it stand for. Write down what they say. Explain that it is a symbol of America, the country where they live.

Lessons (one main lesson a day which can be broken into parts as needed throughout the day):

1. Story: [The Pledge of Allegiance](#) - Learning how to say the Pledge of Allegiance ([Pledge of Allegiance in sign language](#))

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Benchmark Skills:

2.12 Preplans art project and then works with care

5.3 Expands vocabulary

3.12 Recognizes patterns and can repeat them

Pledge of Allegiance: Have the pledge printed on poster paper to leave posted. Give children their own [copy of the pledge](#). After reading the book, have your children add this pledge to the beginning of each morning meeting. Through role-modeling and consistency, they will learn it! Teach them to:

stand quietly (and remove hats, if worn)

place the right hand over the heart

face the flag

recite the pledge

Enjoy listening to/singing a patriotic song after the pledge. There are so many of these, you can change it up daily, once a week, or whatever!

Make a Flag Windsock / Kite: [Find instructions here on how to make a patriotic windsock from an oatmeal cylinder.](#) [Print out your stars here.](#)

Take the time to count out the *stars* and talk about the *red / white* pattern of crepe paper as you glue them on. This is a representation of the flag, not the flag itself, so allow your child freedom to experiment with the mediums provided to design his/her patriotic windsock, like where to put the stars as you count. Once dry, go outside and enjoy watching the windsocks fly!

2. Story: [The Star Spangled Banner](#) or [The Star Spangled Banner](#)- Learn how to sing the [Star Spangled Banner](#)

Benchmark Skills:

2.6 Expresses through movement what is felt and heard in various musical tempos and styles

4.12 Shows balance and coordination

3.27 Identifies self as a member of a specific family and cultural group

Build background: Play [The Star Spangled Banner](#). Give each child his/her own [copy of the song, in its entirety.](#) [Give each child a small flag - print or make one here or here.](#) Enjoy singing The Star Spangled Banner "with" the children a couple of times while letting them each wave a small flag and marching in a line around the room. Are you brave enough to pass out instruments to a few children for an impromptu parade? Gather them together when finished and read the book to them, allowing them to talk about what they see.

Read the story, talking about the various symbols in the pictures. [List the symbols.](#) Consider making a booklet for the children to color or to post in the room.

3. Story: [Benny's Pennies](#) - Coin Recognition

Benchmark Skills:

3.21 Uses words to describe characteristics of objects

2.10 Explores and manipulates art media

Background Building - Show a piggy bank. Ask the children what it is, why people have one, etc. Empty a little money out to show what's inside. Talk about the money. Do any of the children know the names of the coins or the pictures of the men on them? Read [Benny's Pennies](#). After a discussion of [Benny's Pennies](#), give each child a penny of their own to examine and discuss. Tell them that the man's name is Abraham Lincoln. Make a rubbing. (This may work better if you glue/tape each coin on an index card using two of each coin to show both sides. Now, lay paper over the coin, rub a crayon or pencil tip over the coin until you see the coin's image on the paper. Save for later to glue on the [piggy bank](#).)

Make a Piggy Bank: Use a cylinder chip container, cover with red, white or blue construction paper, decorate with pictures of coins and their values (1¢, 5¢, 10¢, 25¢), [names and pictures of presidents](#), star stickers or [print some stars here](#). Cut a slit in the top for a coin slot. Let the children put their penny in and take it home.

4. Show & Tell Thursday: (Anybody out there know a cute Show & Tell song or chant? I'm about ready to make up my own because I can't find one I like.) Children are to bring something that symbolizes patriotism (a picture of them at a fireworks show, a patriotic teddy bear, a flag, a book, even a picture they have drawn, etc.) Parents help them finish the sentence, "This _____ is patriotic because _____." Teacher can help them "read" it to the class.

Benchmark Skills:

3.29 Shows awareness of the roles people play in society

3.14 Demonstrates the ability to order and sequence

Story: [The Story of Abraham Lincoln](#) (This author, Patricia Pingry, has several books along this theme, including [The Story of George Washington](#), [The Story of Thomas Jefferson](#), [The Story of Ronald Reagan](#), etc.)

Coin Book: [Print a copy of each coin](#), front and back, for the children to color with appropriate crayon and assemble into a book. Write the name of the [appropriate president](#) on the pages and the value of the coin (1¢, 5¢, 10¢, 25¢). Have the children put the pages in order from lowest value to highest.

Coin Cubes: Print, laminate, cut out these informational coin cubes. Roll, read and discuss or make up a game to go with them! Then leave them in the [theme center](#) for free exploration!

[Penny Coin Cube](#)

[Nickel Coin Cube](#)

[Dime Coin Cube](#)

[Quarter Coin Cube](#)

5. Closure ~ Last Day of Theme: Story: [This Land is Your Land](#) or [America the Beautiful](#)

Benchmark Skills:

5.3 Expands vocabulary

2.13 Recognizes and responds to beauty in the environment

Build Background: Both of these stories pull together all the symbols of America into rhythmic verse. Read and let the children tell you what they see, what's familiar to them. Ask if they have been anywhere that looks like the pictures in the book. Play a search and find to count how many flags are in the book(s).

America Parade: Sing [Yankee Doodle](#) while playing the midi. Then, play some patriotic music, let the children pick an instrument, and have a patriotic parade around the classroom, school yard, or neighborhood!

Show Time Friday: [Reading Rainbow Shining Stories America](#)

Checking for Student Understanding:

Referring to our [Main Idea and Benchmarks](#), do the children...

recognize the American Flag?

recite the Pledge of Allegiance with reasonable accuracy?

associate red, white and blue with American symbolism?

express pride in their cultural heritage?

If the children show some of these traits, you can move on knowing that the exposure has laid the groundwork for more in-depth learning (of such an abstract subject) as they get older.