

**To:** Melaram, Janette, Marie ([jmmelaram@gmail.com](mailto:jmmelaram@gmail.com))  
**Subject:** U.S. TRADEMARK APPLICATION NO. 87663541 - NPL NATIONAL PATRIOTIC LEAGUE - N/A  
**Sent:** 2/8/2018 3:25:20 PM  
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**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (USPTO)  
OFFICE ACTION (OFFICIAL LETTER) ABOUT APPLICANT'S TRADEMARK APPLICATION**

**U.S. APPLICATION  
SERIAL NO.** 87663541

**MARK:** NPL  
NATIONAL PATRIOTIC  
LEAGUE

**\*87663541\***

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**OFFICE ACTION**

**STRICT DEADLINE TO RESPOND TO THIS LETTER**

TO AVOID ABANDONMENT OF APPLICANT'S TRADEMARK APPLICATION, THE USPTO MUST RECEIVE APPLICANT'S COMPLETE RESPONSE TO THIS LETTER **WITHIN 6 MONTHS** OF THE ISSUE/MAILING DATE BELOW. A RESPONSE TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE TRADEMARK ELECTRONIC APPLICATION SYSTEM (TEAS) MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE MIDNIGHT **EASTERN TIME** OF THE LAST DAY OF THE RESPONSE PERIOD.

**ISSUE/MAILING DATE: 2/8/2018**

The referenced application has been reviewed by the assigned trademark examining attorney. Applicant must respond timely and completely to the issue(s) below. 15 U.S.C. §1062(b); 37 C.F.R. §§2.62(a), 2.65(a); TMEP §§711, 718.03.

**SEARCH OF OFFICE'S DATABASE OF MARKS**

The trademark examining attorney has searched the Office's database of registered and pending marks and has found no conflicting marks that would bar registration under Trademark Act Section 2(d). TMEP §704.02; *see* 15 U.S.C. §1052(d).

**SUMMARY OF ISSUES**

- Refusal under Trademark Act Section 2(b) – Flag of the United States
- Issue Regarding Applicant's Entity Type
- Requirement to Amend the Identification of Goods
- Requirement to Amend the Classification of Goods
- Information Regarding Multiple-Class Application Requirements

**SECTION 2(b) REFUSAL – FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES**

Registration is refused because the applied-for mark includes an American Flag. Trademark Act Section 2(b), 15 U.S.C. §1052(b); *see* TMEP §1204. Trademark Act Section 2(b) bars registration of marks that include the flag, coat of arms, or other insignia of the United States, any state or municipality of the United States, or any foreign nation. TMEP §1204.

The attached evidence from *Encyclopedia Britannica* shows the flag from the United States. The applied-for mark includes this particular designation, without any stylization. Thus, the applied-for mark includes the *actual* flag of the United States, in violation of Section 2(b).

Trademark Act Section 2(b) is an absolute bar to registration on the Principal and Supplemental Registers. Trademark Act Sections 2(b) and 23(a), (c), 15 U.S.C. §§1052(b), 1091(a), (c); *see* TMEP §§1204, 1204.04(a).

*Although applicant's mark has been refused registration, applicant may respond to the refusal(s) by submitting evidence and arguments in support of registration. However, if applicant responds to the refusal(s), applicant must also respond to the requirement(s) set forth below.*

**ISSUE REGARDING APPLICANT'S ENTITY TYPE**

The name of an individual person appears in the section of the application intended for the trademark owner's name; however, the legal entity is set forth as a limited liability company. Applicant must clarify this inconsistency. *See* 37 C.F.R. §§2.32(a)(2), (a)(3)(i)-(ii), 2.61(b); TMEP

§803.02(a).

If applicant is an individual, applicant should simply request that the legal entity be amended to “individual” and must indicate his/her country of citizenship for the record. TMEP §803.03(a). Alternatively, if applicant is a limited liability company, applicant must provide the correct name of the limited liability company and the U.S. state or foreign country of incorporation or organization. TMEP §803.03(h).

If, in response to the above request, applicant provides information indicating that it is not the owner of the mark, registration may be refused because the application was void as filed. *See* 37 C.F.R. §2.71(d); TMEP §§803.06, 1201.02(b). An application must be filed by the party who owns or is entitled to use the mark as of the application filing date. *See* 37 C.F.R. §2.71(d); TMEP §1201.02(b).

## IDENTIFICATION OF GOODS

Some items in the identification of goods, bolded below, are indefinite and must be clarified to specify the common commercial or generic name of the goods. *See* TMEP §1402.01. If the goods have no common commercial or generic name, applicant must describe the product, its main purpose, and its intended uses. *See id.*

The wording “long sleeve shorts” in the identification of goods appears to be misspelled and is thus indefinite because “shorts” do not have sleeves; the spelling must be corrected or the wording further clarified. *See* 37 C.F.R. §2.32(a)(6); TMEP §1402.01(a). Applicant may substitute the following wording for the incorrect spelling, if accurate: “long sleeve shirts.”

Applicant must clarify the identification of goods to specify the material composition of the **banners, car flags, and license plates** because the wording in the identification is too broad and could identify goods in more than one international class. *See* 37 C.F.R. §2.32(a)(6); TMEP §§1401.07, 1402.01, 1402.05(b). For example, this wording could identify goods in the following specified classes: paper banners and flags in Class 16, or cloth banners and flags in Class 24; plastic novelty license plates in Class 20, or metal novelty license plates in Class 6.

In addition, applicant misclassified a number of the goods. The correct classifications are shown below.

Please note that applicant has provided the application fee for only 1 international class. Thus, not all international classes in the application are covered by the application fee. Because of this disparity, applicant must clarify the number of classes for which registration is sought. *See* 37 C.F.R. §§2.32(d), 2.86.

Applicant may respond by (1) adding one or more international class(es) to the application, and reclassifying the above goods accordingly; or (2) deleting from the application the goods for all but the number of international class(es) for which the application fee was submitted. *See* 37 C.F.R. §§2.86(a), 6.1; TMEP §§1403.02 *et seq.* If applicant adds one or more international classes to the application, applicant must comply with the multiple-class application requirements specified in this Office action.

Applicant may substitute the following wording, showing the suggested amendments in bold type, if accurate:

### Class 6

**Metal novelty** license plates

### Class 9

**Eyeglass** lanyards; **protective** covers **for** laptops

### Class 12

**Vehicle parts, namely,** sun visors; license plate frames; **Fitted car** seat covers

### Class 14

Key chains

### Class 16

Decals; **paper** banners; **paper** flags **for** cars; **printed** sporting event tickets

### Class 18

Tote bags, backpacks; umbrellas

#### **Class 20**

**Outdoor furniture, namely, lawn chairs; plastic novelty license plates**

#### **Class 21**

Travel mugs **in the nature of an insulated container for beverages**; bottle openers

#### **Class 22**

Lanyards **for holding {indicate use, e.g., badges, keys}**

#### **Class 24**

**{Specify material composition, e.g. cloth, plastic, or vinyl} banners; {specify material composition, e.g. cloth, plastic, or vinyl} flags for cars; Unfitted seat covers of textile**

#### **Class 25**

Shorts **featuring** American Flag emblem; swimming trunks **featuring American Flag emblem**; long sleeve **shirts**, t-shirts, tank tops; socks; footwear; sun visors **being headwear**; sport caps **being headwear**

#### **Class 27**

Floor mats

#### **Class 28**

Plastic footballs

Applicant's goods and/or services may be clarified or limited, but may not be expanded beyond those originally itemized in the application or as acceptably amended. *See* 37 C.F.R. §2.71(a); TMEP §1402.06. Applicant may clarify or limit the identification by inserting qualifying language or deleting items to result in a more specific identification; however, applicant may not substitute different goods and/or services or add goods and/or services not found or encompassed by those in the original application or as acceptably amended. *See* TMEP §1402.06(a)-(b). The scope of the goods and/or services sets the outer limit for any changes to the identification and is generally determined by the ordinary meaning of the wording in the identification. TMEP §§1402.06(b), 1402.07(a)-(b). Any acceptable changes to the goods and/or services will further limit scope, and once goods and/or services are deleted, they are not permitted to be reinserted. TMEP §1402.07(e).

For assistance with identifying and classifying goods and services in trademark applications, please see the USPTO's online searchable [U.S. Acceptable Identification of Goods and Services Manual](#). *See* TMEP §1402.04.

In addition, for more information on how to identify the goods and services in an application, applicant is encouraged to view the [USPTO's Trademark Information Network Video](#) number 6, "Goods and services."

### **CLASSIFICATION OF GOODS**

If applicant adopts the suggested amendment of the goods above, then applicant must amend the classification to International Classes 6, 9, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, and/or 28. *See* 37 C.F.R. §§2.32(a)(7), 2.85; TMEP §§805, 1401.

Applicant must adopt the appropriate international classification number for the goods and/or services identified in the application. The USPTO follows the *International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks* (Nice Classification), established by the World Intellectual Property Organization, to classify goods and services. *See* 37 C.F.R. §2.85(a); TMEP §§1401.02, 1401.02(a).

Proper classification of goods and services is a purely administrative matter within the sole discretion of the USPTO. *See In re Faucher Indus. Inc.*, 107 USPQ2d 1355, 1357 (TTAB 2013) (quoting *In re Tee-Pak, Inc.*, 164 USPQ 88, 89 (TTAB 1969)).

### **MULTIPLE-CLASS APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

The application identifies goods and/or services in more than one international class; therefore, applicant must satisfy all the requirements below for each international class based on Trademark Act Section 1(b):

- (1) [List the goods and/or services by their international class number](#) in consecutive numerical order, starting with the lowest numbered class.
- (2) [Submit a filing fee for each international class](#) not covered by the fee(s) already paid (view the [USPTO's current fee schedule](#)). The application identifies goods that are classified in at least 13 classes; however, applicant submitted a fee(s) sufficient for only 1 class. Applicant must either submit the filing fees for the classes not covered by the submitted fees or restrict the application to the number of classes covered by the fees already paid.

See 15 U.S.C. §§1051(b), 1112, 1126(e); 37 C.F.R. §§2.32(a)(6)-(7), 2.34(a)(2)-(3), 2.86(a); TMEP §§1403.01, 1403.02(c).

See [an overview](#) of the requirements for a Section 1(b) multiple-class application and how to satisfy the requirements online using the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS) form.

### **Fees for Additional Classes**

The fee for adding classes to a TEAS Reduced Fee (RF) application is \$275 per class. See 37 C.F.R. §§2.6(a)(1)(iii), 2.23(a). See [more information](#) regarding the requirements for maintaining the lower TEAS RF fee and, if these requirements are not satisfied, for adding classes at a higher fee using regular TEAS.

### **INFORMATION REGARDING TRADEMARK COUNSEL**

Because of the legal technicalities and strict deadlines involved in the USPTO application process, applicant may wish to hire a private attorney specializing in trademark matters to represent applicant in this process and provide legal advice. Although the undersigned trademark examining attorney is permitted to help an applicant understand the contents of an Office action as well as the application process in general, no USPTO attorney or staff is permitted to give an applicant legal advice or statements about an applicant's legal rights. TMEP §§705.02, 709.06.

For attorney referral information, applicant may consult the [American Bar Association's Consumers' Guide to Legal Help](#); an online directory of legal professionals, such as [FindLaw®](#); or a local telephone directory. The USPTO, however, may not assist an applicant in the selection of a private attorney. 37 C.F.R. §2.11.

### **RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

For this application to proceed further, applicant must explicitly address each refusal and/or requirement raised in this Office action. If the action includes a refusal, applicant may provide arguments and/or evidence as to why the refusal should be withdrawn and the mark should register. Applicant may also have other options specified in this Office action for responding to a refusal and should consider those options carefully. To respond to requirements and certain refusal response options, applicant should set forth in writing the required changes or statements. For more information and general tips on responding to USPTO Office actions, response options, and how to file a response online, see "[Responding to Office Actions](#)" on the USPTO's website.

If applicant does not respond to this Office action within six months of the issue/ mailing date, or responds by expressly abandoning the application, the application process will end and the trademark will fail to register. See 15 U.S.C. §1062(b); 37 C.F.R. §§2.65(a), 2.68(a); TMEP §§718.01, 718.02. Additionally, the USPTO will not refund the application filing fee, which is a required processing fee. See 37 C.F.R. §§2.6(a)(1)(i)-(iv), 2.209(a); TMEP §405.04.

When an application has abandoned for failure to respond to an Office action, an applicant may timely file a petition to revive the application, which, if granted, would allow the application to return to active status. See 37 C.F.R. §2.66; TMEP §1714. The petition must be filed within two months of the date of issuance of the notice of abandonment and [may be filed online via the Trademark Electronic Application System \(TEAS\)](#) with a \$100 fee. See 37 C.F.R. §§2.6(a)(15)(ii), 2.66(a)(1), (b)(1).

**TEAS PLUS OR TEAS REDUCED FEE (TEAS RF) APPLICANTS – TO MAINTAIN LOWER FEE, ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS MUST BE MET, INCLUDING SUBMITTING DOCUMENTS ONLINE:** Applicants who filed their application online using the lower-fee TEAS Plus or TEAS RF application form must (1) file certain documents online using TEAS, including responses to Office actions (see TMEP §§819.02(b), 820.02(b) for a complete list of these documents); (2) maintain a valid e-mail correspondence address; and (3) agree to receive correspondence from the USPTO by e-mail throughout the prosecution of the application. See 37 C.F.R. §§2.22(b), 2.23(b); TMEP §§819, 820. TEAS Plus or TEAS RF applicants who do not meet these requirements must submit an additional processing fee of

\$125 per class of goods and/or services. 37 C.F.R. §§2.6(a)(1)(v), 2.22(c), 2.23(c); TMEP §§819.04, 820.04. However, in certain situations, TEAS Plus or TEAS RF applicants may respond to an Office action by authorizing an examiner's amendment by telephone or e-mail without incurring this additional fee.

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**TO RESPOND TO THIS LETTER:** Go to [http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/teas/response\\_forms.jsp](http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/teas/response_forms.jsp). Please wait 48-72 hours from the issue/mailling date before using the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS), to allow for necessary system updates of the application. For *technical* assistance with online forms, e-mail [TEAS@uspto.gov](mailto:TEAS@uspto.gov). For questions about the Office action itself, please contact the assigned trademark examining attorney. **E-mail communications will not be accepted as responses to Office actions; therefore, do not respond to this Office action by e-mail.**

**All informal e-mail communications relevant to this application will be placed in the official application record.**

**WHO MUST SIGN THE RESPONSE:** It must be personally signed by an individual applicant or someone with legal authority to bind an applicant (i.e., a corporate officer, a general partner, all joint applicants). If an applicant is represented by an attorney, the attorney must sign the response.

**PERIODICALLY CHECK THE STATUS OF THE APPLICATION:** To ensure that applicant does not miss crucial deadlines or official notices, check the status of the application every three to four months using the Trademark Status and Document Retrieval (TSDR) system at <http://tsdr.uspto.gov/>. Please keep a copy of the TSDR status screen. If the status shows no change for more than six months, contact the Trademark Assistance Center by e-mail at [TrademarkAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov](mailto:TrademarkAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov) or call 1-800-786-9199. For more information on checking status, see <http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/process/status/>.

**TO UPDATE CORRESPONDENCE/E-MAIL ADDRESS:** Use the TEAS form at <http://www.uspto.gov/trademarks/teas/correspondence.jsp>.

**BEWARE OF POTENTIALLY MISLEADING OFFERS OR NOTICES FROM PRIVATE COMPANIES.** Private companies **not** associated with the USPTO often use public information provided in USPTO trademark applications to mail and e-mail trademark-related offers and notices – most of which require fees to be paid. These companies may have names similar to the USPTO; see the [misleading notices webpage](#) for a current list of companies the USPTO has received complaints about. All **official USPTO correspondence** will be **mailed** from the “United States Patent and Trademark Office” in Alexandria, VA, and all **emails** will be from the domain “@uspto.gov.” For more information on how to identify these offers and notices and what to do if you receive one, see the [misleading notices webpage](#). If you receive an offer or notice from a company that is not currently listed on our webpage, please contact the Trademark Assistance Center at [TrademarkAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov](mailto:TrademarkAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov).

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# United States

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LAST UPDATED: 1-25-2018 See Article History

Alternative Titles: America, U.S., U.S.A., United States of America

**United States**, officially **United States of America**, abbreviated **U.S.** or **U.S.A.**, byname **America**, country in **North America**, a federal republic of 50 states. Besides the 48 conterminous states that occupy the middle latitudes of the continent, the **United States** includes the state of **Alaska**, at the northwestern extreme of North America, and the island state of **Hawaii**, in the mid-Pacific Ocean. The conterminous states are bounded on the north by **Canada**, on the east by the **Atlantic Ocean**, on the south by the **Gulf of Mexico** and **Mexico**, and on the west by the **Pacific Ocean**. The United States is the fourth largest country in the world in area (after **Russia**, **Canada**, and **China**). The national capital is **Washington**, which is coextensive with the **District of Columbia**, the federal capital region created in 1790.



United States of America  
United States of America

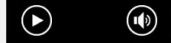


## United States



flag of the United States of America

National anthem of the United States



The Star-Spangled Banner

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- Transportation
- Government and society
- Constitutional framework
- State and local government
- Political process
- Security
- Health and welfare
- Housing
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- Literature

The major characteristic of the United States is probably its great variety. Its physical environment ranges from the Arctic to the subtropical, from the moist rain forest to the arid desert, from the rugged mountain peak to the flat prairie. Although the total population of the United States is large by world standards, its overall population density is relatively low. The country embraces some of the world's largest urban concentrations as well as some of the most extensive areas th



The United States.

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The United States contains a highly diverse population. Unlike a country such as China that largely incorporated indigenous peoples, the United States has a diversity that to a great degree has come from an immense and sustained global immigration. Probably no other country has a wider range of racial, ethnic, and cultural types than does the United States. In addition to the presence of surviving Native Americans (including American Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos) and the descendants of Africans taken as slaves to the New World, the national character has been enriched, tested, and constantly redefined by the tens of millions of immigrants who by and large have come to America hoping for greater social, political, and economic opportunities than they had in the places they left. (It should be noted that although the terms "America" and "Americans" are often used as synonyms for the United States and its citizens, respectively, they are also used in a broader sense for North, South, and Central America collectively and their citizens.)

The United States is the world's greatest economic power, measured in terms of gross domestic product (GDP). The nation's wealth is partly a reflection of its rich natural resources and its advanced technology. Despite its relative economic self-sufficiency, the United States is dependent on the world for many of its needs, particularly for raw materials and energy. The nation's wealth is partly a reflection of its rich natural resources and its advanced technology. Despite its relative economic self-sufficiency, the United States is dependent on the world for many of its needs, particularly for raw materials and energy.

<b>OFFICIAL NAME</b>	United States of America
<b>FORM OF GOVERNMENT</b>	federal republic with two legislative houses (Senate [100]; House of Representatives [435 <sup>1</sup> ])
<b>HEAD OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT</b>	President: Donald Trump
<b>CAPITAL</b>	Washington, D.C.
<b>OFFICIAL LANGUAGE</b>	none
<b>OFFICIAL RELIGION</b>	none
<b>MONETARY UNIT</b>	dollar (U.S.\$)
<b>POPULATION</b>	(2010) 308,745,538; (2016 est.) 323,349,000 <sup>2</sup>
<b>TOTAL AREA (SQ MI)</b>	3,677,649 <sup>3</sup>
<b>TOTAL AREA (SQ KM)</b>	9,525,067 <sup>3</sup>
<b>URBAN-RURAL POPULATION</b>	Urban: (2011) 82.4% Rural: (2011) 17.6%
<b>LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH</b>	Male: (2014) 76.4 years Female: (2014) 84 years
<b>LITERACY: PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION AGE 15 AND OVER LITERATE</b>	Male: (2000–2004) 95.7% Female: (2000–2004) 95.3%
<b>GNI PER CAPITA (U.S.\$)</b>	



- Literature
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economy. Its exports and imports represent major proportions of the world total. The United States also impinges on the global economy as a source of and as a destination for investment capital. The country continues to sustain an economic life that is more diversified than any other on Earth, providing the majority of its people with one of the world's highest standards of living.

The United States is relatively young by world standards, being less than 250 years old; it achieved its current size only in the mid-20th century. America was the first of the European colonies to separate successfully from its motherland, and it was the first nation to be established on the premise that sovereignty rests with its citizens and not with the government. In its first century and a half, the country was mainly preoccupied with its own territorial expansion and economic growth and with social debates that ultimately led to civil war and a healing period that is still not complete. In the 20th century the United States emerged as a world power, and since World War II it has been one of the preeminent powers. It has not accepted this mantle easily nor always carried it willingly; the principles and ideals of its founders have been tested by the pressures and exigencies of its dominant status. The United States still offers its residents opportunities for unparalleled personal advancement and wealth. However, the depletion of its resources, the contamination of its environment, and the continuing social and economic inequality that perpetuates areas of poverty and blight all threaten the fabric of the country.

The District of Columbia is c  
[Boston](#), [Chicago](#), [Los Angeles](#), [New Orleans](#), [New York City](#), [Philadelphia](#), and [San Francisco](#). Political units in association with the United States include Puerto Rico, discussed in the article [Puerto Rico](#), and several Pacific islands, discussed in [Guam](#), [Northern Mariana Islands](#), and [American Samoa](#).

*The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica*

## Land

The two great sets of elements that mold the physical environment of the United States are, first, the geologic, which determines the main patterns of landforms, drainage, and mineral resources and influences soils to a lesser degree, and, second, the atmospheric, which dictates not only climate and weather but also in large part the distribution of soils, plants, and animals. Although these elements are not entirely independent of one another, each produces on a map patterns that are so profoundly different that essentially they remain two separate geographies. (Since this article covers only the conterminous United States, see also the articles [Alaska](#) and [Hawaii](#).)



GENERAL INFORMATION  
(2015) 54,960

<sup>1</sup> Excludes 5 nonvoting delegates from the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam and a nonvoting resident commissioner from Puerto Rico.

<sup>2</sup> Includes military personnel overseas.

<sup>3</sup> Total area (excluding 42,334 sq mi [109,645 sq km] of coastal water and 76,804 sq mi [198,921 sq km] of territorial water) equals 3,677,649 sq mi (9,525,067 sq km), of which land area equals 3,531,925 sq mi (9,147,543 sq km), inland water area equals 85,631 sq mi (221,793 sq km), and Great Lakes water area equals 60,093 sq mi (155,641 sq km).

### FURTHER INFORMATION

- List of cities and towns in the United States

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The Colorado River in Marble Canyon at the northeastern end of Grand Canyon National Park, northwestern Arizona.

© Gary Ladd

Relief

The centre of the conterminous United States is a great sprawling interior lowland, reaching from the ancient shield of central Canada on the north to the Gulf of Mexico on the south. To east and west this lowland rises, first gradually and then abruptly, to mountain ranges that divide it from the sea on both sides. The two mountain ranges in the main set well back from the Atlantic. From the Gulf coast, the lowland extends westward, forming a swampy, convoluted continental shelf, which, although submerged beneath shallow ocean water, is geologically identical to the Coastal Plain. Southward the plain grows wider, swinging westward in Georgia and Alabama to truncate the Appalachians along their southern extremity and separate the interior lowland from the Gulf.

West of the Central Lowland is the mighty Cordillera, part of a global mountain system that rings the Pacific basin. The Cordillera encompasses fully one-third of the United States, with an internal variety commensurate with its size. At its eastern margin lie the Rocky Mountains, a high, diverse, and discontinuous chain that stretches all the way from New Mexico to the Canadian border. The Cordillera's western edge is a Pacific coastal chain of rugged mountains and inland valleys, the whole rising spectacularly from the sea without benefit of a coastal plain. Pent between the Rockies and the Pacific chain is a vast intermontane complex of basins, plateaus, and isolated ranges so large and remarkable that they merit recognition as a region separate from the Cordillera itself.

These regions—the Interior Lowlands and their upland fringes, the Appalachian Mountain system, the Atlantic Plain, the Western Cordillera, and the Western Intermontane Region—are so various that they require further division into 24 major subregions, or provinces.

The Interior Lowland

Andrew Jackson is supposed to have remarked that the United States begins at the Alleghenies, implying that only west of the mountains, in the isolation and freedom of the great Interior Lowlands, could people finally escape Old World influences. Whether or not the lowlands constitute the country's cultural core is debatable, but there can be no doubt that they comprise its geologic core and in many ways its geographic core as well.



Midwest States: Cavourhub

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This enormous region rests upon an ancient, much-eroded platform of complex crystalline rocks that have for the most part lain undisturbed by major orogenic (mountain-building) activity for more than 600,000,000 years. Over much of central Canada, these [Precambrian](#) rocks are exposed at the surface and form the continent's single largest topographical region, the formidable and ice-scoured [Canadian Shield](#).

In the United States most of the crystalline platform is concealed under a deep blanket of sedimentary rocks. In the far north, however, the naked Canadian Shield extends into the United States far enough to form two small but distinctive landform regions: the rugged and occasionally spectacular [Adirondack Mountains](#) of northern [New York](#) and the more-subdued and austere [Superior Upland](#) of northern [Minnesota](#), [Wisconsin](#), and [Michigan](#). As in the rest of the shield, glaciers have stripped soils away, strewn the surface with boulders and other debris, and obliterated preglacial drainage systems. Most attempts at farming in these areas have been abandoned, but the combination of a comparative wilderness in a northern climate, clear lakes, and white-water streams has fostered the development of both regions as year-round outdoor recreation areas.

Mineral wealth in the [Superior Upland](#) is legendary. Iron lies near the surface and close to the deepwater ports of the upper [Great Lakes](#). Iron is mined both north and south of [Lake Superior](#), but best known are the colossal deposits of Minnesota's [Mesabi Range](#); for more than a century one of the world's richest and a vital element in the country's iron mines still yield a major proportion of the country's iron.

South of the Adirondack Mountains and the Superior Upland lies the boundary between crystalline and sedimentary rocks; abruptly, everything is different. The core of this sedimentary region—the heartland of the United States—is the great Central Lowland, which stretches for 1,500 miles (2,400 kilometres) from New York to central [Texas](#) and north another 1,000 miles to the Canadian province of [Saskatchewan](#). To some, the landscape may seem dull, for heights of more than 2,000 feet (600 metres) are unusual, and truly rough terrain is almost lacking. Landscapes are varied, however, largely as the result of glaciation that directly or indirectly affected most of the subregion. North of the [Missouri–Ohio](#) river line, the advance and readvance of continental ice left an intricate mosaic of boulders, sand, gravel, silt, and clay and a complex pattern of lakes and drainage channels, some abandoned, some still in use. The southern part of the Central Lowland is quite different, covered mostly with [loess](#) (wind-deposited silt) that further subdued the already low relief surface. Elsewhere, especially near major rivers, postglacial streams carved the loess into rounded hills, and visitors have aptly compared their billowing shapes to the waves of the sea. Above all, the loess produces soil of extraordinary [fertility](#). As the Mesabi iron was a major source of America's industrial wealth, its agricultural prosperity has been rooted in Midwestern loess.

The Central Lowland resembles a vast [tableland](#), rising gradually to higher lands on all sides. Southward and eastward, the land rises gradually to three major plateaus. Beyond the [Great Plains](#), the [Colorado Plateau](#) rises sharply, separated from one another by the great valley of the [Colorado](#). The [Savannah](#) rises west of the river and occupies most of southern [Missouri](#) and northern [Arkansas](#); on the east the [Interior Low Plateaus](#) dominate central [Kentucky](#) and [Tennessee](#). Except for two nearly circular patches of rich limestone country—the Nashville Basin of Tennessee and the Kentucky [Bluegrass region](#)—most of both plateau regions consists of sandstone uplands, intricately dissected by streams. Local relief runs to several hundreds of feet in most places, and visitors to the region must travel winding roads along narrow stream valleys. The soils there are poor, and mineral resources are scanty.

Eastward from the Central Lowland the [Appalachian Plateau](#)—a narrow band of dissected uplands that strongly resembles the [Ozark Plateau](#) and Interior Low Plateaus in steep slopes, wretched soils, and endemic poverty—forms a transition between the interior plains and the Appalachian



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Mountains. Usually, however, the Appalachian Plateau is considered a subregion of the Appalachian Mountains, partly on grounds of location, partly because of geologic structure. Unlike the other plateaus, where rocks are warped upward, the rocks there form an elongated basin, wherein [bituminous coal](#) has been preserved from erosion. This Appalachian [coal](#), like the Mesabi iron that it complements in U.S. industry, is extraordinary. Extensive, thick, and close to the surface, it has stoked the furnaces of northeastern steel mills for decades and helps explain the huge concentration of heavy industry along the lower Great Lakes.

The western flanks of the Interior Lowlands extend in a swath nearly 500 miles (800 km) wide. The Great Plains were built by successive layers of poorly cemented sand, silt, and gravel—debris laid down by parallel east-flowing streams from the [Rocky Mountains](#). Seen from the east, the surface of the Great Plains rises inexorably from about 2,000 feet (600 metres) near [Omaha, Nebraska](#), to more than 6,000 feet (1,825 metres) at [Cheyenne, Wyoming](#), but the climb is so gradual that popular legend holds the Great Plains to be flat. True flatness is rare, although the [High Plains](#) of western [Texas](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Kansas](#), and eastern [Colorado](#) come close. More commonly, the land is broadly rolling, and parts of the northern plains are sharply dissected into badlands.



High Plains  
The High Plains, near Fort Morgan, Colorado.  
*Epimetheus*

The main mineral wealth of the Interior Lowlands derives from fossil fuels. Coal occurs in structural basins protected from erosion—high-quality bituminous in the Appalachian, [Illinois](#), and western Kentucky basins; and subbituminous and lignite in the eastern and northwestern Great Plains. Petroleum and [natural gas](#) have been found in nearly every state between the Appalachians and the Rockies, but the Midcontinent Fields of western Texas and the Texas Panhandle, Oklahoma, and Kansas surpass all others. Aside from small deposits of [lead](#) and [zinc](#), metallic minerals are of little importance.

### The Appalachian Mountain system

The [Appalachians](#) dominate the eastern United States and separate the [Eastern Seaboard](#) from the interior with a belt of subdued uplands that extends nearly 1,500 miles (2,400 km) from northeastern [Alabama](#) to the Canadian border. They are old, complex mountains, the eroded stumps of much greater ranges. Present topography results from erosion that has carved weak rocks away, leaving a skeleton of resistant rocks behind as highlands. Geologic differences are sharply demarcated and neatly arranged, so that all the major

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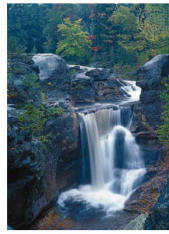
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Screw Auger Falls in the Mahoosuc Range, northern Appalachian Mountains, Maine.  
© George Wuerthner

The core of the Appalachian belt extends from the western side of this belt forms the long slender rampart of the [Blue Ridge Mountains](#), containing the highest elevations in the Appalachians ([Mount Mitchell](#), [North Carolina](#), 6,684 feet [2,037 metres]) and some of its most handsome mountain scenery. On its eastern, or seaward, side the Blue Ridge descends in an abrupt and sometimes spectacular escarpment to the [Piedmont](#), a well-drained, rolling land—never quite hills, but never quite a plain. Before the settlement of the Midwest the Piedmont was the most productive agricultural region in the United States, and several [Pennsylvania](#) counties still consistently report some of the highest farm yields per acre in the entire country.

West of the crystalline zone, away from the axis of primary geologic deformation, sedimentary rocks have escaped metamorphism but are compressed into tight folds. Erosion has carved the upturned edges of these folded rocks into the remarkable [Ridge and Valley](#) country of the western Appalachians. Long linear ridges characteristically stand about 1,000 feet (300 metres) from base to crest and run for tens of miles, paralleled by broad open valleys of comparable length. In Pennsylvania, ridges run unbroken for great distances, occasionally turning abruptly in a zigzag pattern; by contrast, the southern ridges are broken by faults and form short, parallel segments that are lined up like magnetized iron filings. By far the largest valley—and one of the most important routes in North America—is the [Great Valley](#), an extraordinary trench of shale and limestone that runs nearly the entire length of the Appalachians. It provides a lowland passage from the middle [Hudson](#) valley to [Harrisburg](#), Pennsylvania, and on southward, where it forms the [Shenandoah](#) River valley. In New England it is floored with slate.



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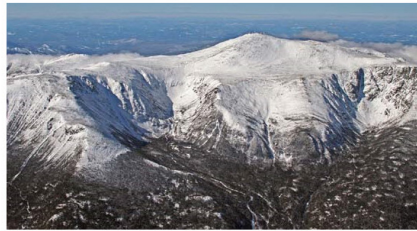
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Topography much like that of the Ridge and Valley is found in the [Ouachita Mountains](#) of western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma, an area generally thought to be a detached continuation of Appalachian geologic structure, the intervening section buried beneath the sediments of the lower Mississippi valley.

The once-glaciated New England section of the Appalachians is divided from the rest of the chain by an indentation of the Atlantic. Although almost completely underlain by crystalline rocks, New England is laid out in north-south bands, reminiscent of the southern Appalachians. The rolling, rocky hills of southeastern New England are not dissimilar to the Piedmont, while, farther northwest, the rugged and lofty [White Mountains](#) are a New England analogue to the Blue Ridge. ([Mount Washington](#), New Hampshire, at 6,288 feet [1,917 metres], is the highest peak in the northeastern United States.) The westernmost ranges—the [Taconics](#), [Berkshires](#), and [Green Mountains](#)—show a strong north-south lineation like the Ridge and Valley. Unlike the rest of the Appalachians, however, glaciation has scoured the crystalline rocks much like those of the Canadian Shield, so that New England is best known for its picturesque landscape, not for its fertile soil.



Mount Washington, in the White Mountains, New Hampshire.  
William Hemmings New Hampshire Division of Travel and Tourism Development

Typical of diverse geologic exploitation, notably iron in northern New England. In

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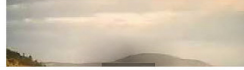
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Pennsylvania the Ridge and Valley region contains one of the world's largest deposits of anthracite coal, once the basis of a thriving mining economy; many of the mines are now shut, oil and gas having replaced coal as the major fuel used to heat homes.

### The Atlantic Plain

The eastern and southeastern fringes of the United States are part of the outermost margins of the continental platform, repeatedly invaded by the sea and veneered with layer after layer of young, poorly consolidated sediments. Part of this platform now lies slightly above sea level and forms a nearly flat and often swampy coastal plain, which stretches from Cape Cod, Massachusetts, to beyond the Mexican border. Most of the platform, however, is still submerged, so that a band of shallow water, the continental shelf, parallels the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, in some places reaching 250 miles (400 km) out to sea.



Northeast USA: Physical Landscape  
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The Atlantic Plain slopes so gently that even slight crustal upwarping can shift the coastline far out to sea at the expense of the continental shelf. The peninsula of Florida is just such an upwarp: nowhere in its 400-mile (640-km) length does the land rise more than 350 feet (100 metres) above sea level; much of the southern and coastal areas rise less than 10 feet (3 metres) and are poorly drained and dangerously exposed to Atlantic storms. Downwarps can result in extensive flooding. North of New York City, for example, the weight of glacial ice depressed most of the Coastal Plain beneath the sea, and the Atlantic now beats directly against New England's rock-ribbed coasts. Cape Cod, Long Island (New York), and a few offshore islands are all that remain of New England's drowned Coastal Plain. Another downwarp lies perpendicular to the Gulf coast and guides the course of the lower Mississippi. The ri

Coastal Plain called the Mis  
South of New York the Coastal Plain gradually widens, but ocean water has invaded the lower valleys of most of the coastal rivers and has turned them into estuaries. The greatest of these is Chesapeake Bay, merely the flooded lower valley of the Susquehanna River and its tributaries, but there are hundreds of others. Offshore a line of sandbars and barrier beaches stretches intermittently the length of the Coastal Plain, hampering entry of shipping into the estuaries but providing the eastern United States with a playground that is more than 1,000 miles (1,600 km) long.



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Poor soils are the rule on the Coastal Plain, though rare exceptions have formed some of America's most famous agricultural regions—for example, the citrus country of central Florida's limestone uplands and the **Cotton Belt** of the Old South, once centred on the **alluvial plain** of the Mississippi and belts of chalky black soils of eastern Texas, Alabama, and **Mississippi**. The Atlantic Plain's greatest natural wealth derives from petroleum and natural gas trapped in domal structures that dot the **Gulf Coast** of eastern Texas and **Louisiana**. Onshore and offshore drilling have revealed colossal reserves of oil and natural gas.

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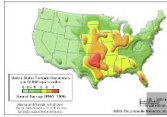
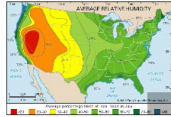


### North America

North America, third largest of the world's continents, lying for the most part between the Arctic Circle and the Tropic of Cancer. It extends for more than 5,000 miles (8,000 km) to within 500 miles (800 km) of both the North Pole and the Equator and has an east-west extent

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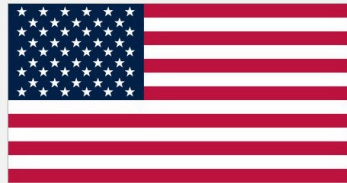
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# Flag of the United States of America

WRITTEN BY: The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica  
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Alternative Titles: Old Glory, Star-Spangled Banner, Stars and Stripes



national flag consisting of white stars (50 since July 4, 1960) on a blue canton with a field of 13 alternating stripes, 7 red and 6 white. The 50 stars stand for the 50 states of the union, and the 13 stripes stand for the original 13 states. The flag's width-to-length ratio is 10 to 19.

After the [American Revolution](#) began, the first, unofficial national flag—known as the Continental Colours (or, sometimes, as the Grand Union Flag, the Cambridge Flag, the Somerville Flag, or the Union Flag)—was hoisted on a towering 76-foot (23-metre) liberty pole at Prospect Hill in Charlestown (now in [Somerville](#)), Massachusetts, on January 1, 1776; it was raised at the behest of Gen. [George Washington](#), whose headquarters were nearby. The flag had 13 horizontal stripes (probably of red and white or of red, white, and blue) and, in the canton, the first version of the British Union Flag ([Union Jack](#)). As the flag of the Continental Army, it flew at forts and on naval vessels. Another popular early flag, that of the 1765 Sons of Liberty, had only nine red and white stripes. Various versions of “Don’t Tread on Me” coiled-rattlesnake flags appeared on many 18th-century American colonial banners, including several flown by military units during the Revolutionary War. The version carried by the [Minutemen](#) of Culpeper County, Virginia, for example, included not only the rattlesnake and the “Don’t Tread on Me” motto but also Virginia patriot [Patrick Henry](#)’s famous words “Liberty or Death.”

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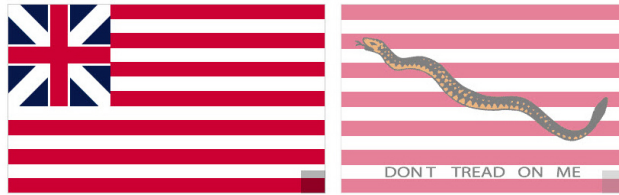
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The first official national flag, formally approved by the [Continental Congress](#) on June 14, 1777, was the Stars and Stripes. That first Flag Resolution read, in toto, "Resolved, that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field representing a new constellation." The layout of the stars was left undefined, and many patterns were used by flag makers. The designer of the flag—most likely Congressman Francis Hopkinson, a signer of the [Declaration of Independence](#) from Philadelphia—may have had a ring of stars in mind to symbolize the new constellation. Today that pattern is popularly known as the "[Betsy Ross flag](#)," although the widely circulated story that she made the first Stars and Stripes and came up with the ring pattern is unsubstantiated. Rows of stars (4-5-4 or 3-2-3-2-3) were common, but many other variations also existed. The new [Stars and Stripes](#) formed part of the military colours carried on September 11, 1777, at the Battle of the Brandywine, perhaps its first such use.



The Stars and Stripes changed on May 1, 1795, when Congress enacted the second Flag Resolution, which mandated that new stars and stripes be added to the flag when new states were admitted to the Union. The first two new states were [Vermont](#) (1791) and [Kentucky](#) (1792). (One such flag was the 1,260-square-foot [117-square-metre] "Star-Spangled Banner," made by Mary Pickersgill, that [Francis Scott Key](#) saw at [Fort McHenry](#) in September 1814, which inspired him to write the patriotic poem that later supplied the lyrics of the [national anthem](#).) In 1818, after five more states had been admitted, Congress enacted the third and last Flag Resolution, requiring that henceforth the number of stripes should remain 13, the number of stars should always match the number of states, and any new star should be added on the July 4 following a state's admission. This has been the system ever since. In all, from 1777 to 1960 (after the admission of [Hawaii](#) in 1959), there were 27 versions of the flag—25 involving changes in the stars only. An executive order signed by Pres. [William Howard Taft](#) on October 26, 1916, standardized for the first time the proportions and relative size of the elements of the flag. In 1934 the most popular of variations, the 48-star flag, was standardized.

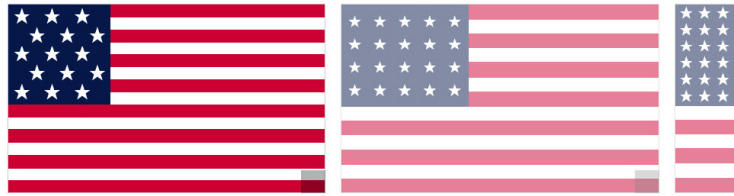


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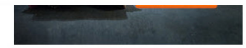
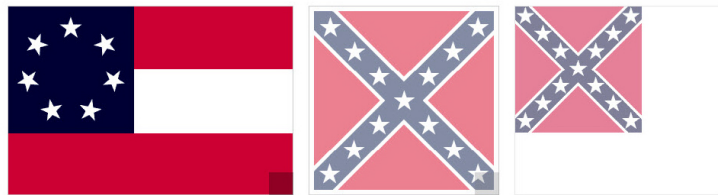


29, 1912, standardized for the first time the proportions and relative sizes of the elements of the flag; in 1934 the exact shades of colour were standardized.



There is no official assignment of meaning or symbolism to the colours of the flag. However, [Charles Thomson](#), secretary of the Continental Congress, in describing the proposed Great Seal of the United States, suggested the following symbolism: "White signifies purity and innocence, Red, hardiness & valour, and Blue...signifies vigilance [sic], perseverance [sic] & justice." As with many other national flags, the Stars and Stripes has long been a focus of patriotic sentiment. Since 1892, millions of children have recited the [Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag](#) at the start of each school day, and the lyrics of the [national anthem](#) are also concerned with the flag. After the [U.S. Supreme Court](#) ruled in 1989 that all flag desecration laws were unconstitutional, some veterans' and patriotic groups pressured legislators to adopt laws or a constitutional amendment prohibiting flag desecration. Such legislation has been opposed on the grounds that it would infringe on the constitutionally guaranteed [First Amendment](#) freedom of expression.

During the American Civil War, the [Confederate States of America](#) began to use its first flag, the Stars and Bars, on March 5, 1861. Soon after, the first Confederate Battle Flag was also flown. The design of the [Stars and Bars](#) varied over the following two years. On May 1, 1863, the [Confederacy](#) adopted its first official national flag, often called the [Stainless Banner](#). A modification of that design was adopted on March 4, 1865, about a month before the end of the war. In the latter part of the 20th century, many groups in the South challenged the practice of flying the Confederate Battle Flag on public buildings, including some state capitols. Proponents of the tradition argued that the flag recalled Southern heritage and wartime sacrifice, whereas opponents saw it as a symbol of racism and slavery, inappropriate for official display.



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...not only made the first Stars and Stripes at George Washington's behest but also helped design it. Canby based his paper on stories that he had heard from family members, along with his own memories of his grandmother's tales of her involvement in making flags.

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...that he helped design the American flag; the U.S. Congress, however, turned down his petition for payment, asserting that others had contributed to the design.

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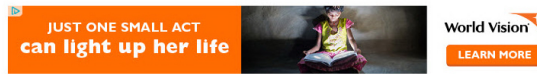
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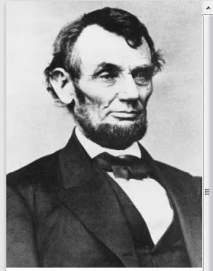


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