

Citizenship -The Pledge of Allegiance

We say the pledge every day at school and in other venues. We go to school 180 days each year. That means by the time we finish elementary school we have said it 1,080 times!!!! A pledge is a promise. Is it important to keep a promise? Of course! If we say The Pledge, we need to know what it is we are promising and to whom we are making that promise. Let's take some time to understand The Pledge of Allegiance.

I pledge (I promise)

Allegiance (To be faithful or true to something)

To the flag of the United States of America (Are we talking about a piece of cloth? Are we making a promise to cloth?)

And to the republic (A republic is a form of government where the people are the boss. The people elect representatives to take care of their business and make sure their voices are heard. Our founding fathers came from England where they were ruled by a king. The power came down from the king. The people had no power to decide how they would live, worship, own property or be able to make other important decisions about their lives.)

For which it stands (What is the "it" we are talking about? It is the flag. What is meant by the word "stands"? That means what "it"...the flag REPRESENTS. The flag represents our republic.....our United States.)

One nation under God (Did you know that "under God" was not in the original pledge? Congress passed a law in the 1950's to add "under God" in to the pledge. It is said that they did so to reflect the history of our nation's founding. Many of our documents, money and other things reflect the beliefs of those that established our nation. Congress made an attempt to acknowledge the fact that God was a big part of the equation at that time. There is currently debate about the appropriateness of this change and efforts to go back to the original version without "under God".)

Indivisible (Cannot be divided. We fought a horrible civil war that divided our nation. Though it served a very important cause....to give rights to all of our people, it killed hundreds of thousands of our citizens and almost destroyed these United States. The Pledge promises we will stay united.....50 states but "one nation". United we stand, divided we fall)

With liberty (Liberty is FREEDOM. With this freedom, can we do ANYTHING we want? Can we take other people's property? Can we drive our cars like maniacs? Of course not! We have freedom within our laws. We can be the best or worse we can be as long as we don't break our laws or step on someone else's freedom.)

And justice (Justice is equal treatment for everyone. Would it be fair at school to have one set of rules for girls and a different set of rules for boys? How about different rules for rich and poor or for different ethnic or religious groups? Certainly not! Our pledge is to have equal justice.....)

For all. (All of our citizens must benefit from the rights, privileges and blessings America offers)

This is our pledge.....our promise to each other as citizens.

**“A Pledge is a Promise”
(Primary)**

Listen to the song “A Pledge is a Promise” song and then color in these words:

I love my school.

I love my country.

I pledge to be good.

Flag facts:

How many red stripes are on the American Flag? _____

How many white stripes? _____

How many stars? _____

What do the stars and stripes mean?

Circle the best answer:

The 13 stripes mean

- a. the days of the week**
- b. the first 13 colonies**
- c. the number of American states today**

The 50 stars mean

- a. the number of days in the month**
- b. the number of stars in the sky**
- c. the number of American states today**

Citizenship

“A Pledge is a Promise” Lyrics

A pledge is promise remember that.
A pledge is promise remember that.

Every day we say the Pledge but some don't even know what they are saying.

So listen to me. I am sure you'll see the meaning behind the words.

To pledge allegiance means you promise that you always will be true.
To the flag that stands for our beautiful land, the red the white and the blue.

In a republic all the people are free to be the best that we can be.
We vote for men and women who will represent you and me.

We all have a part to play.
One nation means we're a team!
Our founders wanted to worship in peace and not to be ruled by kings.

Indivisible means we'll not divide, we'll stand and never fall!
Liberty is freedom, justice is fair, and these things were meant for us all!

To pledge allegiance means you promise that you always will be true.
So remember that when you stand to pledge to be faithful to the red white and blue.