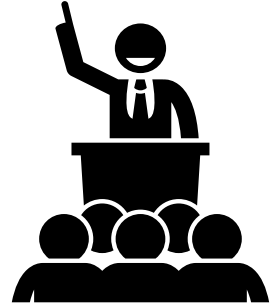


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# History of the Kansas Flag

A governor is an elected leader who is in charge of a state. An elected leader is elected by people who live in the state. People elect governors who care about issues they think are important. For example, if you care about education, you might vote for someone to be the next governor because he or she wants to give more money to schools. Governors have many important jobs, like keeping track of how a state spends its money and working with cities to make sure they have things they need, like hospitals and schools.



Right now, the governor in Kansas is Laura Kelly. She was elected as governor in 2019. She will be the governor until 2022! As the governor, Laura Kelly works at a special office at the Kansas State Capitol. The Kansas State Capitol is a building in Topeka, Kansas.

This is what the governor's office looks like. In the governor's office, there are flags. One flag is for the United States and the other is for the state of Kansas!

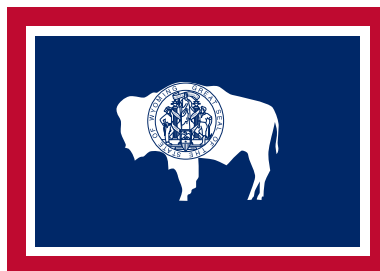


Today, you will learn about the flag for the state of Kansas. Then, you will create your own flag that will be kept in the governor's office. Follow the steps below.

## Step 1: Learn About the Kansas Flag

Read the information below. Then, answer the questions.

State flags usually have pictures, words, and colors on it that are meaningful to the state's history. For example, many states include pictures of animals who live in that state. Many state flags also include pictures related to important industries, like farming.



The Kansas state flag was created in 1927. It has many pictures and colors on it. It also has the Kansas state seal on it. A state seal is an image that represents the state. The image usually has the state motto and pictures that represent the history of the state. A state motto is a phrase that represents the state.

On the next page, you will see a picture of the Kansas state flag. Under the flag, there are descriptions of the meaning behind the words and images that are found on the flag.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# History of the Kansas Flag



Sunflower:

- State flower of Kansas

Blue and Gold Bar:

- This image is of a braided bar. The braids represent the areas of land that were purchased in the Louisiana Purchase. The Louisiana Purchase was an event that occurred when France sold a large chunk of land in North America to the United States.

State Seal:

- The state seal contains the following images:
  - Buffalo: The state animal of Kansas
  - Native Americans on horseback: The first people who lived on the land that became known as Kansas.
  - Covered Wagons: The transportation people used to move west to Kansas.
  - Log Cabin: One type of house that settlers lived in.
  - Riverboat: Represents the exchange of goods and services in Kansas.
  - Horse, Plow, and Farmer: Shows the importance of farming and agriculture in Kansas.
  - 34 Stars: Kansas was the 34th state to enter the United States of America.

The state seal also contains the motto “Ad Astra per Aspera.” This means “to the stars through difficulty.” This phrase represents different kinds of struggles and successes of the people who moved to, and settled in Kansas. For example, people who moved to Kansas in the 1800s had to learn how to farm the land and grow crops. This was difficult because some people had never farmed before!

The Word “Kansas:”

- The state is named after the Kansa Indians. The Kansa is a Native American tribe. They were one of the first Native American tribes to arrive in Kansas many years ago.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# History of the Kansas Flag

Answer the questions below using complete sentences.

1. Why does the Kansas state flag have an image that represents the Louisiana Purchase?

2. Based on the passage, is farming an important industry in Kansas? Why or why not.

3. Why are there 34 stars on the Kansas flag?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# History of the Kansas Flag

## Step 2: Design Your Own Flag

Imagine that you are the governor of Kansas. You have decided to create a new flag for your office in the Capitol building. The new flag will represent your history and things that are important to you. It will hang next to the flags for the United States and Kansas. Your flag must have the following:

- Your name written in large uppercase letters (similar to how the Kansas flag has the word “Kansas” written in large letters).
- A personal motto, or phrase, that represents you.
- At least three pictures.
- At least three colors.
- Any other words, designs, or images you want to add!

Fill out the information below to plan what will be on your flag. Then, design your flag using the template on the next page.

### Choosing Pictures for Your Flag

In the space below, describe three pictures that you want to include on your flag. The pictures should describe important people, events, or things that are important to you. If you need help, think about the following:

- What are your favorite hobbies?
- What are your favorite things to learn about in school?
- What are your favorite memories from your childhood?
- What traditions does your family follow?
- Where is your family from?

### Writing a Personal Motto

On the lines below, write a personal motto, or phrase, that represents you. The motto can be one you have heard before or you can make up your own!

Example mottos: Stay strong, Always be kind, Love to learn

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

# History of the Kansas Flag

## Choosing Colors

Choose at least three colors that will be found on your flag. The colors should represent you. For example, if you like to be outdoors, you might choose colors that remind people of nature, like green or brown.

**Design your flag using the template below.**

