

The Church Flag

Study Plan: The Episcopal Church has a special flag. You will learn what each part of the flag means.

Study plan: To earn the Flag badge, you will need to do the following steps:



Step 1: What are flags for? Leader's initials _____



Today we see flags at school, in parades, and in front of buildings. Many people fly a flag outside their home. The idea of flags is very old. When soldiers in ancient times went into battle, they needed to know where their leaders were. In the confusion of battle, it was not easy to tell. The leaders showed where they were by carrying a tall pole of some kind. The pole usually had a shield, some feathers or the figure of an animal on it. As long as the soldiers could see the pole carried by their leader, they fought on. Eventually, someone had the idea of fastening cloth flags to the poles. The cloth flags had the same decoration as the leader's shield.



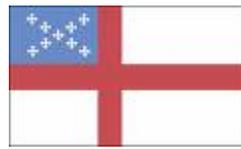
Where do you see flags? _____

What kinds of flags do you see in front of people's houses? _____

What did the flags of ancient times show? _____



Have you seen these flags? What do they stand for?

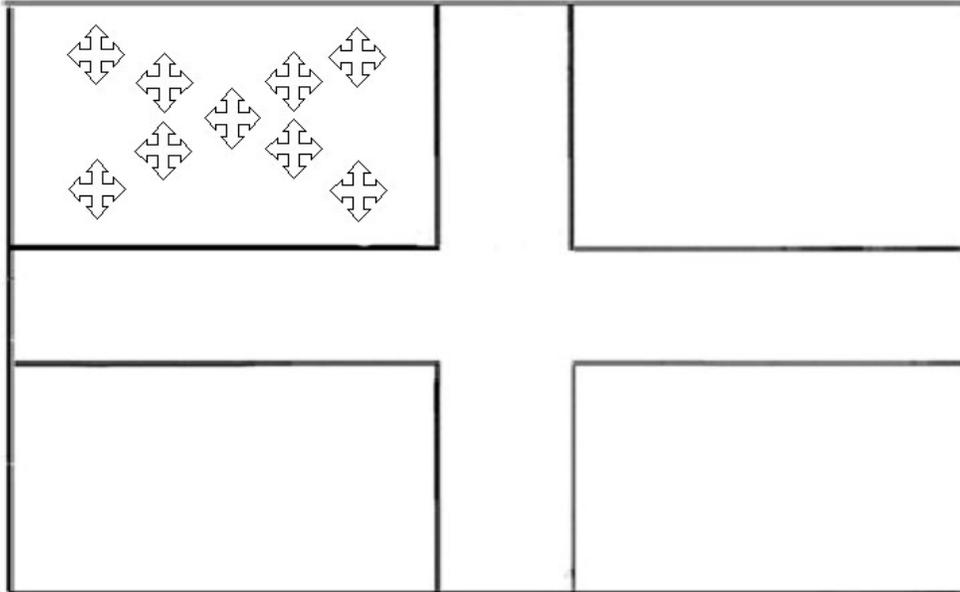




Step 2: What are the special parts of the Episcopal Church Flag?

Leader's initials _____

The Episcopal Church Flag was created so that there would be one special symbol to represent all of the parts of the Episcopal Church.



The colors of the flag are: (Color the above flag as you learn about the meaning of each color.)

RED cross - represents sacrifice of Jesus and the blood of those who have died for being Christian believers.

WHITE background -represents purity of the Christian Religion

PALE BLUE background -represents Mary, the mother of Jesus

SHAPES:

+ **CROSS** -This is the called St. George's cross. St. George is the patron saint of England, which is the mother church of the Episcopal Church.

⦿ **CROSSLETS**-These small crosses represent the nine original dioceses of the United States in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, South Carolina, Delaware and Virginia.

X CROSS- The crosslets are arranged in an X; this is called the St Andrew's Cross. St. Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland. Our first bishop, Samuel Seabury, had to go to Scotland to be ordained as a bishop of the Episcopal Church.

Practice drawing a St. George's Cross, a St. Andrew's cross and crosslets in this space.



Do two of the following three activities:

1. This is the shield of the Episcopal Church. Does it look like the flag? Color it!

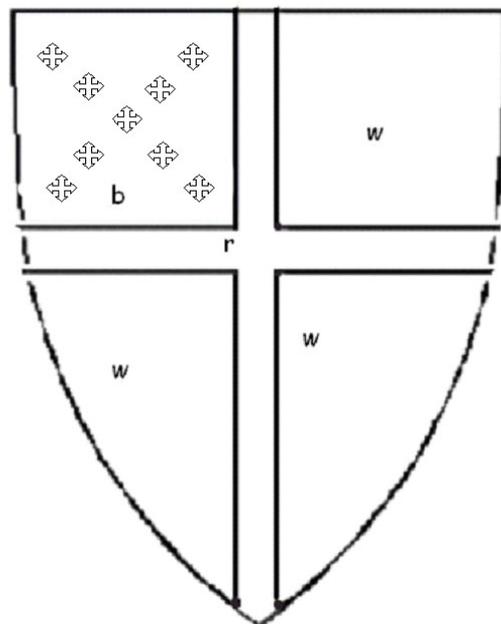
b = light blue

r = red

w = white

Make the crosslets white too.

2. Find the Episcopal Church Flag in your church



3. Make an Episcopal Church Flag out of construction paper or felt. You can glue it or stitch it together. Here is an example:



Step 3: Flag Etiquette Leader's initials _____

There are many rules explaining how a flag should be treated. A flag should be treated well because it stands for something important, such as a country or a church.

Remember:

The flag should be mended and cleaned when necessary.

The flag should not be used as a drapery, for covering a desk or for any general decoration.

The flag should not be used as a receptacle for holding, carrying or delivering anything.



Draw a line to match the color to its meaning.

RED

Purity

BLUE

Human nature of Jesus

WHITE

Sacrifice and blood of martyrs

Challenge Yourself!

What is a patron?

A patron is someone who protects or defends something or someone. St. George is the patron saint of England. His symbol is a large red cross. The same cross is on the Episcopal flag because our church came from the Church of England.

Saint George became popular in England when stories of his bravery were brought back to England by the crusaders in the 12th century. The story told how St. George killed a horrible dragon just as it was about to eat a beautiful princess. Some people think the legend is an allegory. An allegory is a story that has a symbolic meaning. They believe that the dragon represents Satan, the princess represents humankind and St. George represents Christianity. Thus the story is about how Christianity can save humans from Satan.

Step 4: A legend Leader's initials_____

Here is one version of the legend of St. George, the patron saint of England.

Long ago a young Christian soldier named *George* wanted to do great things. He had a sword. He noticed that his sword looked like a cross. He hoped that one day he would be able to do something really good with his sword that was in the shape of a cross.

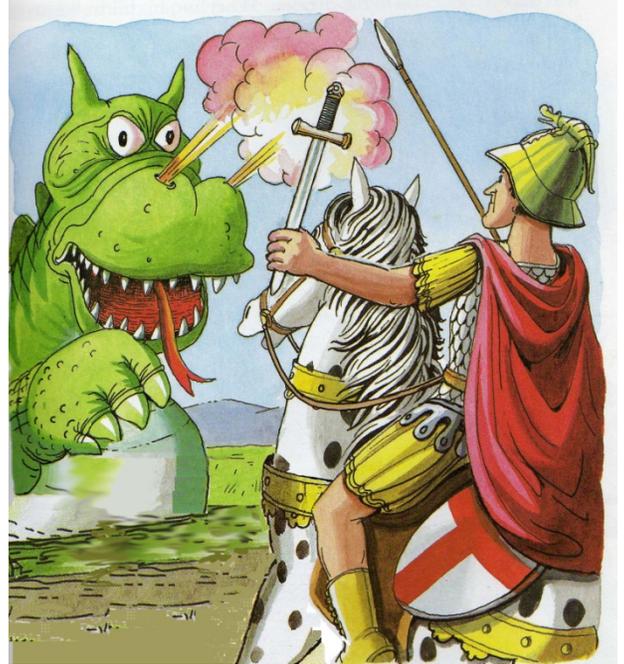


One day, *George* heard about a dragon that lived in a swamp near the city of *Sylene*. The people of the city could not kill or drive the dragon away. They tried to stay away from the dragon, but some couldn't run fast enough and they would get eaten up. Finally, the people of the town decided to give the dragon two sheep every day to keep it happy.

But, after a while, the dragon decided it would rather eat nice, tender, young people. The king said that everyone must draw lots to see who would be the dragon's dinner. Everyone would take a stone from a sack. If the person got a black stone, they were safe. The person who got the white stone would become the dragon's dinner.

Everyone took a stone. Suddenly, there was a cry! The king's only daughter had received the white stone. She would be dinner for the dragon the next day!

All of the people and the King were very sad that the princess was going to be fed to the dragon. The princess was brought outside the town to wait for the dragon. Just then, George came riding by. He wanted to know why the princess was sitting outside the city. She explained the whole story to George. George decided he would battle with the dragon.



The dragon came out of the swamp to eat the princess. George held up his sword like a cross to the dragon. Its fiery breath died away. George battled with the dragon until the dragon was too tired to fight. Then George cut off its head.

Everyone wanted to know how George was able to defeat the dragon. He said, "My sword is like Christ's cross. It is stronger than any evil anywhere."

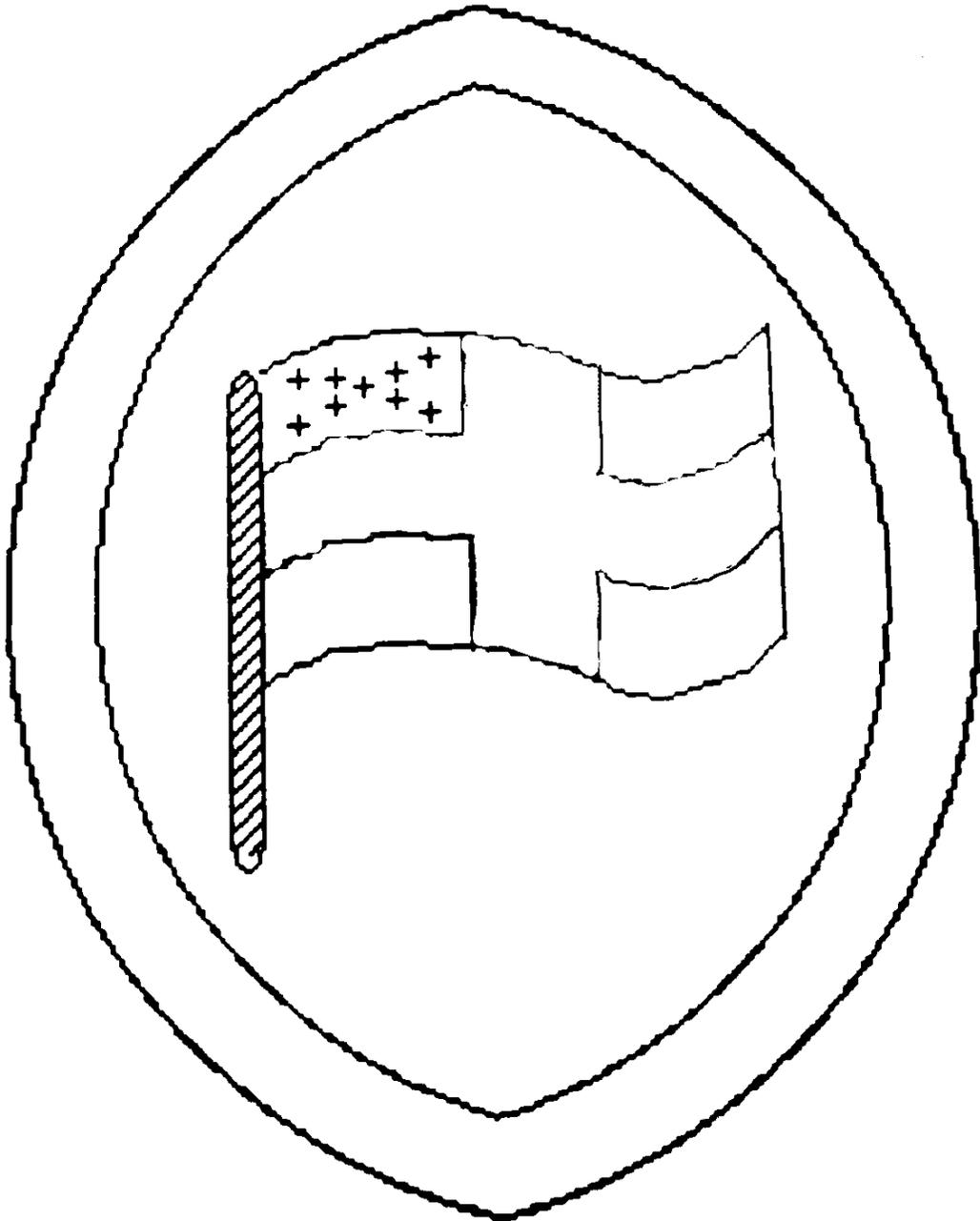


Do 2 or more of the following activities:

1. No one knows exactly what happened to George after that. What do you think he did next?

2. Act out the legend of St. George
3. Look on the internet or in art books for different paintings of St. George. (See Leader's List for examples.)

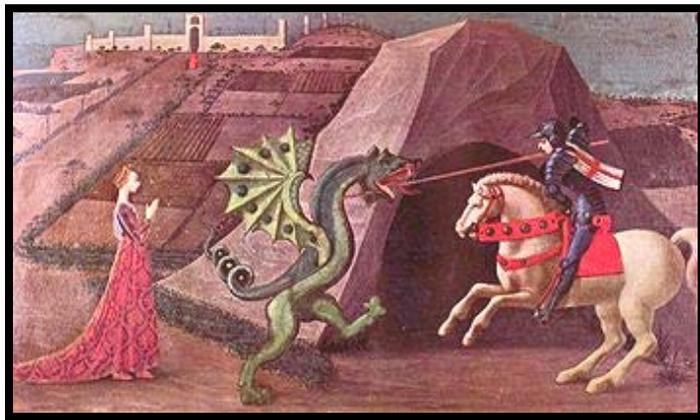
Color this badge for your notebook.



Leader's List



“Saint George and the Dragon” by Carpaccio, ca 1502



Paolo Ucello 1470



Albrecht Durer, 1503