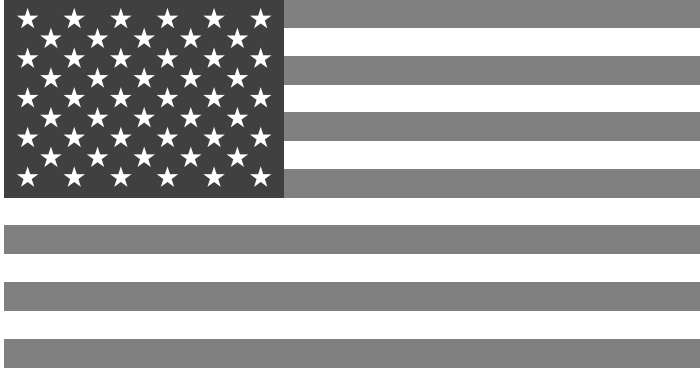


◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ THE NORTH CAROLINA FLAG ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆

FIRST IN FREEDOM (PART 1)

- ◆ **Learning Outcome:** *Students can explain the intended meaning of the colors and symbols on the North Carolina flag.*

Flags are important symbols. Every country on earth has a flag that represents its government, people, and history. You probably already know what the American flag looks like. (You might even be able to see an American flag near you right now.) The colors of the American flag are red, white, and blue. The American flag has 13 stripes, representing the original 13 states that declared independence on July 4, 1776. (North Carolina was one of those original states!) The American flag also has 50 stars, which represent the 50 U.S. states that exist today.



Originally, the U.S. flag had only 13 stars. Then, every time a new state was added, another star was added to the flag. In 1959, the American flag had 48 stars. That same year, Alaska and Hawaii officially became the 49th and 50th states, so two more stars were added to the American flag.

Each state also has its own flag. The North Carolina flag represents the government, people, and history of North Carolina. The colors of the North Carolina flag are red, white, and blue, just like the American flag.

The red, white, and blue symbolize **virtues** that the people of North Carolina believe to be especially important. (A **virtue** is a good human characteristic like bravery, honesty, or kindness.) On the North Carolina flag, the color red symbolizes **courage** (bravery). To live a happy and safe life and to achieve your goals, it helps to be brave! Throughout our history, the people of North Carolina have shown great bravery, both in times of war and peace.



VOCABULARY WORDS

- ◆ Virtue
- ◆ Courage
- ◆ Vigilance
- ◆ Perseverance
- ◆ Innocence

The blue on the North Carolina flag symbolizes **vigilance** and perseverance. The word vigilance means being careful and watchful for signs of danger or trouble. It is good to be brave, but it is also good to be careful! It is also a good idea to be prepared for life's difficulties. This is why vigilance is a virtue. **Perseverance** means not giving up when things get difficult. People who have perseverance overcome problems and keep working toward achieving their goals, even when they face many challenges.

