Celebrate the Pledge of Allegiance
First Grade

The students will:

- recite and explain the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
- explain state and patriotic symbols
- identify Constitution Day as a celebration of American freedom

Vocabulary:

- allegiance
- Celebrate Freedom week
- Constitution Day
- freedom
- indivisible
- liberty
- loyalty
- pledge
- Pledge of Allegiance

TEKS:
1.13A,B,C,E, 1.1A

Materials:

- I Pledge Allegiance by Pat Mora and Libby Martinez
- Pledge image
- Pledge document
- Friendship Pledge handout
- Pledge of Allegiance Game (LRE website)
- Pledge of Allegiance Rebus cards
- American Flag Etiquette
- Pledge video

Teaching Tips:

- The I Pledge Allegiance by Pat Mora and Libby Martinez would make a great read aloud (if available) to use during this lesson. It can also be used as a shared or modeled reading learning experience.
- Cut the Pledge Rebus Cards in advance for groups to arrange during the lesson.
- The Pledge of Allegiance Game (LRE website) would make a great learning station this week.

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Teaching Strategies:

1. Show students the Pledge image to the American flag. Ask questions such as:
   - What do you see in the image?
   - What are the children doing?
   - When do you think this picture was taken? What makes you say that?
   - What do you wonder?
   - How does it make you feel?
   - How is what they are doing similar to what you do in school every day?
   - How is it different?
2. Share with students that the children in the image are saying the Pledge of Allegiance. The image was taken in 1941 in Virginia.
3. Have students stand and recite the pledge.
4. Ask students to compare how they recite the pledge to how the children in the image are reciting the pledge. (Students in the image are saluting the flag. Today people put their hand over their heart as they say the pledge.)
5. Ask students if they know why we say the Pledge of Allegiance. Have students share their thoughts.
6. Share with students that you are going to show them a video about the importance of the Pledge. As they watch, you want them to think about why we say the Pledge.
7. Show students the Pledge video.
8. Project the Pledge document, showing the words of the Pledge. (Point to the words as you are asking questions.)
9. Ask questions such as:
   - Why do we say the Pledge of Allegiance?
   - What does it mean to pledge? (A pledge is a promise.)
   - What are we pledging? (Our allegiance or loyalty to the United States flag.)
   - Why are we promising our loyalty to the flag? (The flag symbolizes or represents the principles that our country the United States was founded on a long time ago.
   - How does our flag represent our country? (50 stars: states and 13 stripes: colonies. It symbolizes or represents freedom and loyalty.)
10. Share with the class that the word ‘republic’ means our Constitutional government of the United States.
11. Ask students what is meant by the Constitution.
12. Share that our Constitution is the set of rules we follow in our country. It belongs to the United States. It belongs to all Americans. Just like you have rules you follow at home and in school, there are rules we follow as citizens of the United States. All these rules are stated in the Constitution. The Constitution gives us our rights and freedoms as Americans. It was adopted on September 17, 1787. We celebrate the Constitution each year on September 17 during Celebrate Freedom week.

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13. Share with students that the word ‘indivisible’ means united together. All Americans together pledge their loyalty to the flag for the rights and freedoms we have in our country.
14. Explain to students that one of the most important American patriotic symbols is the flag of our country. The Pledge of Allegiance expresses our feelings for the flag, so it is important that we understand what the words in the pledge mean.
15. If the book is available, read I Pledge Allegiance by Pat Mora and Libby Martinez. Ask questions to clarify student understanding.
16. Ask students questions such as:
    - Why do we say the pledge?
    - What does the word pledge mean?
17. Divide students into groups of 2-4 students. Give each group an envelope containing a set of the Pledge of Allegiance Rebus Cards. Tell students to create the Pledge of Allegiance by arranging the picture cards in the correct order. Check for accuracy. (This can also be done at a learning station.)
18. Share with the class that they are going to have an opportunity to create a pledge to a friend. Have them think about what things they might promise a friend. Give students a copy of the Friendship Pledge handout.
19. Have students share their pledges.

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The Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of
America, and to the republic
for which it stands, one
nation, under God, indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all.

Friendship Pledge

I Pledge

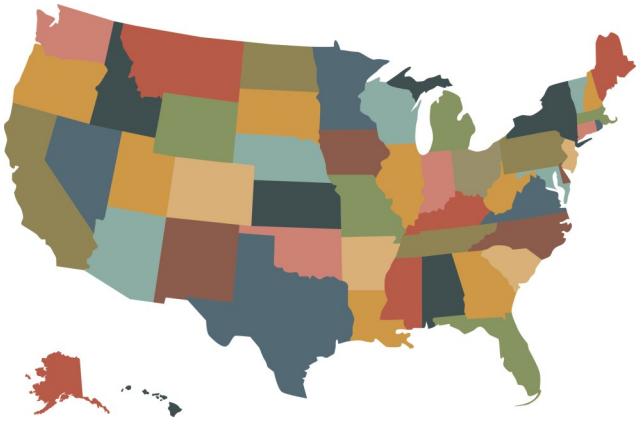
I

pledge
allegiance

to

the flag of

the United States



of America

and

to the
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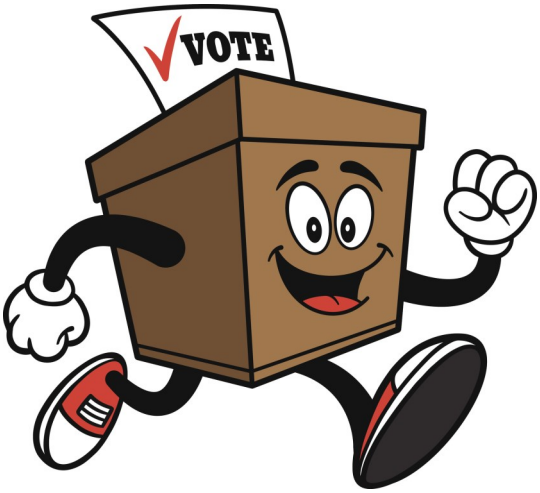

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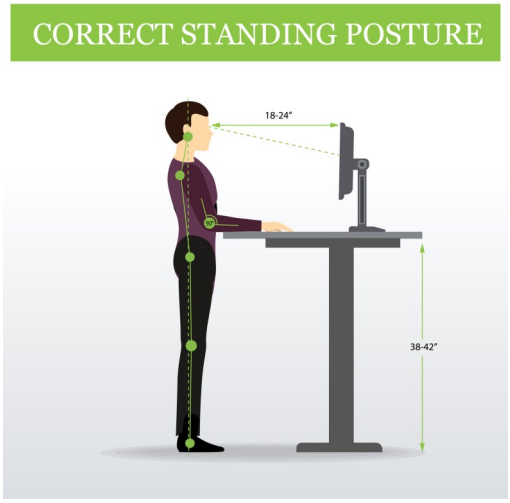

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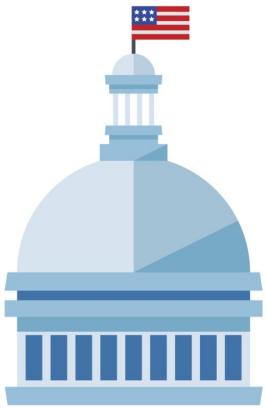

under God

indivisible

with liberty

and justice

for

all

I

me, myself

pledge

promise

allegiance

my
loyalty

to the flag

The Stars and
Stripes

of the United States of America

my country

and to the Republic

a government of the people

for which it stands

which the flag symbolizes

one nation

50 states united together as one

under God

with freedom of religion

indivisible

cannot be separated

with liberty

with freedom

and justice

fair to all

for all

for everyone