

Lesson 3

READ THIS STORY #2, Advanced

The State Flag of Texas

The Lone Star flag of Texas is considered an excellent example of a well-designed flag. Here's why.

It is easily recognizable. It is composed of three rectangles and one star. One rectangle is red, one is blue, and the other is white.

There is no state seal on the flag because Texas was not a state when the flag was designed. Texans had won their independence from Mexico in 1836. But they were refused admission to the United States. So they declared themselves an independent republic, and that's when they designed their flag.

To make words readable from both sides of a flag, two flags must be sewn together back to back. Experts say that makes a flag so heavy that it does not fly freely. So the designers of the Texas flag did not include any words.

Because the Texas flag is so elegantly simple in design, people are not always sure of the proper way to display it. Unfortunately, it is frequently hung upside down, which is a universal signal of distress. People need a trick to help them remember the right way to hang it. An easy way to remedy this problem has been suggested. Clouds are white, and clouds are "up." So the Texas flag should be hung with the white rectangle up at the top.