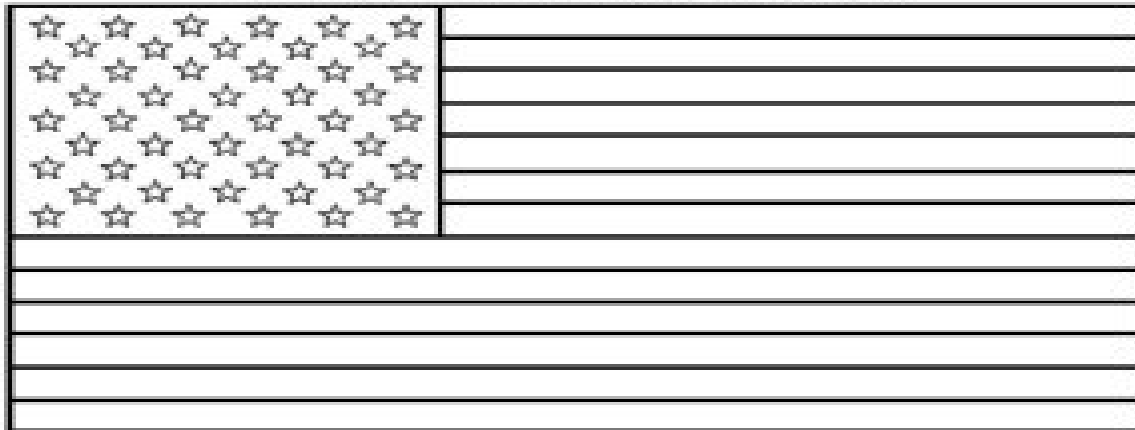


The Flag of the United States of America



The current flag of the United States consists of 13 equal horizontal stripes of red (top and bottom) alternating with white. There is a blue rectangle in the upper hoist-side corner which bears 50 small, white, five-pointed stars. The stars are arranged in nine offset horizontal rows of six stars (top and bottom) alternating with rows of 5 stars. The 50 stars represent the 50 states and the 13 stripes represent the 13 original colonies. The blue stands for loyalty, devotion, truth, justice, and friendship; red symbolizes courage, zeal, and fervency, while white denotes purity and rectitude of conduct.