

American Flag Cork Board

Supplies:

- A rectangular white cork bulletin board
- Push pins with a flat top
- Red and blue acrylic craft paint
- Paintbrushes
- Pre-cut stars about an inch wide (Make sure they are five-point stars!)
- Masking or painter's tape
- Hot glue

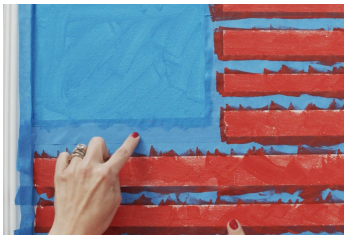
Steps:

	<p>Step 1: Using masking or painter's tape, section out spaces for each part of the American flag. Start off by making a rectangle with two pieces of tape in the top left-hand corner where the stars will go. Next, add pieces of tape from the top of the bulletin board to the bottom for the stripes.</p>
	<p>Step 2: Add the stripes to make a total of 13. The first and last stripes should be red. See the example shown here. (The stripes that are left blank will be red, and the stripes under the tape will be white.)</p>
	<p>Step 3: With the tape, block off any parts of the flag that will not be painted.</p>
	<p>Step 4: Paint the blue section of the flag.</p>

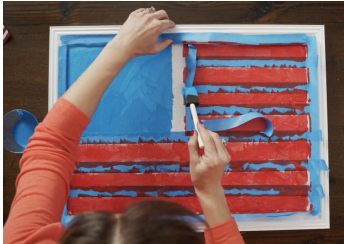




Step 5: Paint the blank stripes red. Remember that where the tape is (when removed) is where the white stripes will be.



Step 6: Peel off the pieces of tape around the perimeter of the blue section.



Step 7: Paint those spaces blue.



Step 8: When the paint dries, carefully peel all the tape off the board.



Step 9: After all the tape has been removed, the flag should look like this.

	<p>Step 10: Count out 50 push pins and 50 stars to make the stars.</p>
	<p>Step 11: Carefully use a hot glue gun to glue a star on the flat top of each push pin. Before placing any star pushpins on the flag, make sure the glue is dry.</p>
	<p>Step 12: Push the star push pins into the flag's blue section.</p> <p>*The flag pictured here was the first United States flag. It had 13 stars to represent the 13 original colonies.</p>
	<p>Step 13: To represent our current flag, add all 50 stars correctly positioned on the blue section.</p>

How many flags does America actually have? Officially, the United States has had 27 different versions of the American flag since the Founding Fathers declared our freedom in 1776. All these designs were created at different times in our history and show how the United States has grown.

Fun Facts:

- Our first flag was created in either 1776 or 1777 (historians can't fully agree). A seamstress named Betsy Ross in Philadelphia sewed it together. Some say it was her idea to make the stars with 5 points.
- The red in the flag symbolizes hardiness and valor, white is for purity and innocence, and blue is for perseverance and justice.

- The flag that flew from 1795-1818 had 15 stars. This is the one that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the “Star Spangled Banner” (our national anthem) when he saw it flying during the War of 1812.
- Since 1819, stars have only been added on the 4th of July.

Extension Activity:

Make a word wall! Challenge children to write and decorate index cards with words that describe the American flag or list fun facts they have learned about it. Make and use extra star pushpins to attach the cards to the striped section of the bulletin board.