

# PRIDE FLAGS

## OVERVIEW:

In this lesson, students will learn about the history of the rainbow Pride flag and to recognize commonly used identity flags. Students will be encouraged to reflect on the significance of these symbols in terms of community, expression, and advocacy. Working together, students will then create affirming decorations for their classroom or school environment.

## SUGGESTED MATERIALS:

- Identity flags page
- Flag printouts
- Colouring materials
- Flag Template
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- String

## OBJECTIVES:

- Explore the historical and cultural contexts of identity flags and their significance within the 2SLGBTQ+ community.
- Recognize and appreciate the diversity within the 2SLGBTQ+ community by learning about different identities represented by specific flags.
- Develop an understanding of the role of visibility in the 2SLGBTQ+ rights movement and how flags serve as tools for advocacy and awareness.
- Reflect on their own understanding of identity and how symbols play a role in expressing who they are.

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# INSTRUCTIONAL OVERVIEW:

Identity flags represent various identities within the 2SLGBTQ+ community, each with unique symbolism. There are dozens of identity flags, reflecting many of the sexualities, gender identities, and intersections present in our community. Encourage students to get acquainted with some of the commonly seen identity flags by reading through the hand out in a group or in pairs.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How can identity flags foster a sense of belonging for people in the 2SLGBTQ+ community?
- Why is visibility created by symbols like flags important for marginalized identities?
- What do identity flags mean to you personally? Do you feel a connection to any particular flag, and why?



Pride Flag



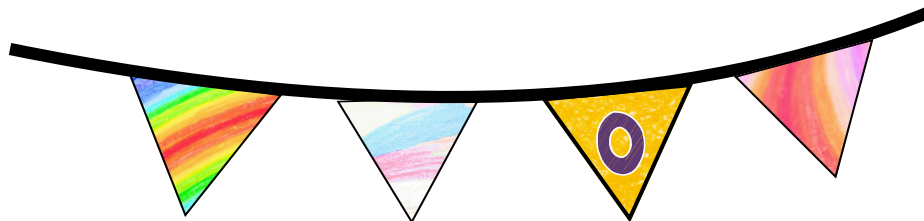
Transgender Pride Flag

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# ACTIVITY:

With your reflections on the importance of visibility and a feeling of belonging, take this opportunity to create a visual reminder that your school is a safe and affirming space for everyone.



- Encourage your students to colour the blank flag templates with identity flags or write affirmations, such as 'You Are Enough' or 'Love is Love'.
- Have students cut out flags and line them up.
- Punch holes in two of the corners of the flags.
- Weave the string through the holes on the flags to create a garland.
- Display the garland in your classroom or the school environment.

## PRIDE FLAGS

**Traditional Pride Flag** - This adaptation of the Gilbert Baker Pride Flag which originally included pink and turquoise stripes is the most recognized symbol of 2SLGBTQ+ pride. Each colour stripe has a corresponding meaning: red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight, and green for nature.

**Transgender Pride Flag** - The Transgender Pride Flag was created by Veronica Monica in 1999, to symbolize the transgender pride, diversity of the transgender community, and the fight for transgender rights. The blue stripes symbolize the traditional colors associated with boys, while the pink stripes represent those traditionally linked to girls. The white stripes signify individuals who are intersex, transitioning, or have an undefined gender.

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**Lesbian Pride Flag** – This commonly accepted iteration of the Lesbian Pride Flag has been in use since 2018. Dark orange represents gender nonconformity, orange for independence, light orange for community, white for unique relationships to womanhood, pink for serenity and peace, dusty pink for love and sex, and dark rose for femininity.

**Gay Pride Flag** – The Gay Pride Flag can be used by a person of any gender who is primarily attracted to people of the same gender, though it is most often used for men who are attracted to other men. The deep green represents community and the light green signifies healing. Turquoise for healing, white represents gender nonconforming, transgender, and non-binary individuals, and the dark blue to light blue colors represent love, courage and activism, and diversity and inclusion.

**Non-Binary Pride Flag** – Created in 2014, the Non-Binary Pride Flag represents people who do not identify with either binary gender or within the gender binary at all. The yellow stripe represents genders outside the binary, the white stripe indicates those with multiple genders, the purple stripe symbolizes those between male and female, and the black stripe represents no gender.

**Bisexual Pride Flag** – Created by bi activist Michael Page in 1998, the Bisexual Pride Flag features three colours: pink for attraction to the same gender, blue for attraction to a different gender, and overlapping lavender to symbolize attraction to both and/or multiple genders.

**Pansexual Pride Flag** – Created in 2010 by Jasper V on Tumblr, the Pansexual Pride Flag has become widely adopted by the pansexual community. Its colours symbolize attraction to different identities: pink for femme-identifying people, blue for male-identified individuals, and yellow for non-binary and genderqueer folks.

**Asexual Pride Flag** – In 2010, the Asexual Visibility and Education Network (AVEN) held a design contest for a shared flag for the asexual community, leading to the selection of a design by a user called standup. The flag's colours each have their own meaning: black for asexuality, gray for gray-asexuality and demisexuality, white for non-asexual partners and allies, and purple for the community.

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**Genderqueer Pride Flag** – Designed by genderqueer activist Marilyn Roxie in 2011, the lavender stripe represents androgynes and androgyny, white represents agender and gender neutral folks, and green signifies identities outside of the gender binary.

**Aromantic Pride Flag** – This flag, representing people who have little or no romantic attraction to others, was created in 2014 by @cameronwhimsy on Tumblr. The dark green symbolizes a lack of romance, while the light green represents aromanticism as a spectrum. The white stands for platonic, aesthetic, and queerplatonic relationships, the gray for demiromantic people, and the black for the sexuality spectrum.

**Intersex Pride Flag** – In 2013 Morgan Carpenter designed the intersex flag to use colours and symbols that avoid referencing gender stereotypes. The circle represents wholeness and completeness.

**Two-Spirit Pride Flag** – While there isn't one officially agreed-upon 2S flag, the most wide-spread was created by Tumblr user 2Sanon in 2016. The feathers symbolize both masculine and feminine identities, while the circle represents the merging of these identities into a distinct gender. The rainbow signifies contemporary queer identities.

## RESOURCES AND REFERENCES

### FOR FURTHER LEARNING

<https://humanrights.ca/story/symbol-pride>

<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/lgbtq-flags-history-symbolism>

<https://www.hrc.org/resources/lgbtq-pride-flags>

<https://morgancarpenter.com/intersex-flag/>

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# Let's Learn About Pride Flags



Pride Flag



Transgender Pride Flag



Lesbian Pride Flag



Gay Pride Flag



Non-Binary Pride Flag



Bisexual Pride Flag



Pansexual Pride Flag



Asexual Pride Flag



Genderqueer Pride Flag



Aromantic Pride Flag



Intersex Pride Flag



Two-Spirit Pride Flag