

# Alaska Flag Ornament

Explore how stars connect to history and culture by making an Alaska flag ornament!



Stars play an important role in history and culture. For thousands of years, people have looked up at the night sky, told stories about the patterns they see, and used the stars to navigate while traveling.

## Materials Needed:

Flag Ornament printable (or draw your own), colored pencils or crayons, yarn or string, glue, scissors  
Optional: Gold star stickers, hole punch.

## Instructions:

Step 1: Color two flag ornament templates. Color the background blue and the stars yellow to make it look like the Alaska flag, or use your imagination!

Optional: Add gold star stickers for the North Star (the big star at the top).

Step 2:

U O ' ' 7

## The Big Dipper and the North Star

A constellation is a group of stars that appears to form a pattern or picture in the sky. The Big Dipper, shown on the Alaska flag, is part of the constellation Ursa Major (the Great Bear). Two stars in the Big Dipper point toward Polaris, the North Star. Polaris is part of the constellation Ursa Minor (the Little Bear).

Image: Miguel Claro, via Space.com.

Polaris is situated almost directly above the North Pole, so it is useful for navigation in the northern hemisphere. Cultures across the world have used Polaris to help navigate for thousands of years.

Did You Know? The Big Dipper is not a constellation! It is part of Ursa Major. The Big Dipper is an asterism, a recognized, but not

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