

Loyalty

Syllables
loy•al•ty

Pronunciation
loi-uhl-tee

Definition

Being faithful to someone or something.

(The police officer's dog, who fought for her until the end, was known for his **loyalty**.)

Simply put: Stick with me, kid.

Related Terms

Steadfast: Dependable, trustworthy, and unchanging in purpose.

Fundamental Question:

To what and to whom do you pledge your loyalty?

Students will investigate the idea that sometimes loyalty is appropriate ... and sometimes it is not; and, taking an oath is one way to show that you intend to be loyal.

Objectives

Each student will:

1. Identify people to whom and things to which (s)he is or should be loyal.
2. Identify people to whom and things to which (s)he should not be loyal (with an explanation as to why).
3. Examine examples of loyalty oaths.
4. Design a flag using symbols of loyalty.

Before you begin

- Print out a copy of *Flag! You're It!* for each student.

Suggested Sidebars:

Speaking of Loyalty (Discussion Idea)

In 1947, U.S. President Harry S. Truman ordered a "loyalty program." In a speech he said: "I believe I speak for all of the people of the United States when I say that disloyal and subversive elements must be removed from the employ of the Government." What does that statement mean? Do you share President Truman's opinion? Explain your answer.

Taking It to the Next Level

Harry Truman's "loyalty program" made it possible for the government to look into the personal beliefs of every federal worker. Some people thought that this was done to protect democracy, but others thought that it was an invasion of privacy. What do you think? Look online and in books to see what else can you find out about President Truman's loyalty program.

Loyalty

Procedure

1. Ask the students to stand, face the flag, place their right hands over their hearts, and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. When they are finished, have them sit down. Ask: "What did the words that you just said mean? For instance, what does 'I pledge allegiance' mean? (I promise my loyalty.) What does loyalty mean? (Refer back to the definitions and examples above.) Okay, so "I promise my loyalty to the flag? Why? (The flag is a symbol of our country.)" Continue line by line through the entire pledge, writing the "translation" on the board as you go.
2. Say: "Not every loyal citizen of our country was born here. People who move here from other countries and want to become U.S. citizens, may become "naturalized" citizens. They have to meet certain requirements. One of them is to swear to be loyal to the United States. This is the Oath of Allegiance that they must take:

"I hereby declare, on oath,

- that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen;
- that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic;
- that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;
- that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law;
- that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law;
- that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law;
- and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God."

(Optional: Break the class into seven groups, assigning each group one of the bulleted points above. Have the groups find out more about and discuss their points, and present their findings to the class.)

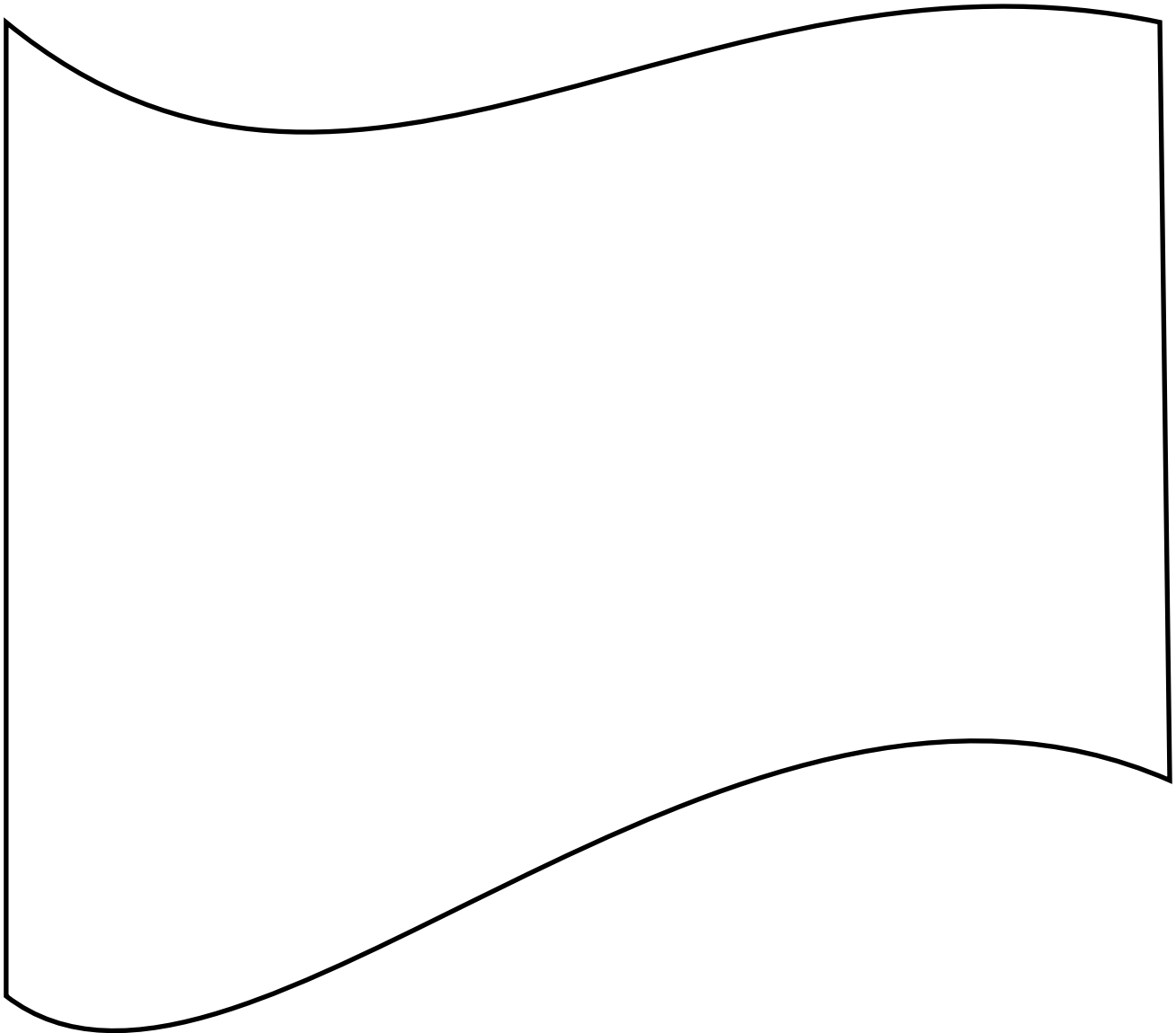
3. Ask: "Other than our country, what are some of the things to which you are loyal?" (Answers will vary, but might include things such as my family, my school, or my religion.)
4. Ask: "Are there any things to which people might not want to be loyal?" (Answers will vary, but might include things like illegal organizations, hate groups, or hurtful schemes.) "Explain why it might be best not to be loyal to these."
5. **Follow Up:** Distribute the *Flag! You're It!* sheets and assist your students with the directions and research.

Name _____

Reminder: Loyalty means being faithful to someone or something.

Flag! You're It!

Did you know that some colors (blue and green), animals (dogs and cranes), and articles (saws and rings) are symbols that stand for loyalty? Design a flag that tells about your own loyalty or loyalties. Use two or more of these symbols plus any others you can find.



Today's Thought: *If all my friends were to jump off a bridge, I wouldn't jump with them. I'd be at the bottom to catch them.* — **Author and date unknown**