2027 Youth Art Month Flag Design Competition
Flag Design Information

Theme: My Community, My Story
Grade levels: K-12 (Adaptable)
Time frame: 1-2 class periods (40-90 minutes each)

Lesson Overview:
Communities are made up of people, places, traditions, and experiences that shape who we are. Artists often use symbols and imagery to tell stories about their homes and identities. In this lesson, students will design a flag that represents their community while celebrating the theme ***"My Community, My Story".*** Their flag will combine personal and Texas-inspired imagery with text to communicate a meaningful visual message.

Objectives:
- Students will create a flag design that communicates the Theme ***"My Community, My Story'.***
- Students will incorporate recognizable Texas imagery (state outline, bluebonnets, star, longhorn, cowboy, etc.).
- Students will include either the words 'Youth Art Month' or the letters 'YAM'
- Students will practice combining imagery and text into a balanced composition.
- Students will use elements and principles of art to communicate ideas about their community and personal story.

Materials:
- White drawing paper (8.5" X 11")
- Pencils and erasers
- Colored pencils, crayons, marker, watercolor, pastels (oil or chalk)
- Visual references (Texas symbols, Texas map, community landmarks, local wildlife/landscapes, art supplies and creative symbols, etc.)

Vocabulary:
- Community, symbol, identity, composition, balance, emphasis, unity, contrast, flag, theme

Introduction (10-15 minutes):
- Show examples of past Texas Youth Art Month flags
- Discuss this year's theme *"My Community, My Story" and* ask:
    - What makes your community special or unique?
    - What places, traditions or people are important to you?
    - How can symbols tell the story of where you live?
    - What images best represent your experiences and identity??
    - How do different cultures experience Art?
- Explain that students will create an original flag that represents both their community and themselves.
- Brainstorm a list of Texas imagery with the class (ex: state shape, Texas flag, armadillo, bluebonnets, cowboy hat, star, oil rig, desert sunset, etc.).

Brainstorm/Thumbnail sketches (10-15 minutes):
- Important places in the community
- Texas symbols
- Family or cultural traditions, hobbies or interests
- Emphasize balance and readability

Independent Practice/Final Drawing (30-60 minutes):
- Students start drawing their own flag design idea incorporating the theme **"My Community, My Story"** along with at least one recognizable Texas symbol.
- Add color using colored pencils, crayons, markers, watercolor, pastels (oil or chalk), etc.
- Trace/outline pencil to blend with artwork

- Remind students that text must be **clear** and **legible** and include either **“Youth Art Month”** or **“YAM”**

Closure (5 - 10 minutes):

- Gallery walk: students place their flag designs in front of their seat at their table for classmates to view.
    - **Quick reflection:**
    - What part of your design best shows the theme**: “My Community, My Story”**?
    - What does your flag design communicate?
    - Which symbols/imagery best represents your community?
    - How do the words and images work together in your composition?

Assessment:

- Artwork includes both **Texas imagery** and **theme representation.**
- Words ‘*Youth Art Month’* or letters ‘*YAM’* are clearly included.
- Students demonstrate effort in composition, outline, and color.
- Composition shows creativity and craftsmanship

Teachers must be a current TAEA member to submit ONE student design along with the signed Artwork Permission Form (English) (Spanish) to the Flag Design Dashboard by Friday, December 11, 2026.