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The Title of the Essay: **The Flag of the United States ("Stars and Stripes") vs. The Flag of the State of Texas ("Lone Star")**

Name of the School: **Donald Leonetti Elementary School**

The Flag of the United States ("Stars and Stripes") vs. The Flag of the State of Texas ("Lone Star")

When we think about the United States and Texas, two famous symbols often come to mind — the **Stars and Stripes**, which is the flag of the United States of America, and the **Lone Star**, which represents the state of Texas. Both flags have deep meanings, proud histories, and represent courage, freedom, and unity. Even though they are different in design and purpose, they share a spirit of independence and pride that inspires people across the nation.

The Stars and Stripes: A Nation's Symbol

The **Stars and Stripes**, also called **"Old Glory"**, is one of the most recognized flags in the world. It was first adopted on **June 14, 1777**, when the United States was still a new country fighting for freedom from Britain. The flag's design has changed over time as more states joined the Union. Today, it has **50 white stars** on a blue field, representing each state, and **13 red and white stripes**, symbolizing the original 13 colonies. The current American flag was designed by a 17-year-old high school student named Robert Heft in 1958. He was tasked with designing a new version of the American flag for a school project. Some historians credit Francis Hopkinson, a New Jersey delegate to the Continental Congress, with designing the first flag in 1702.

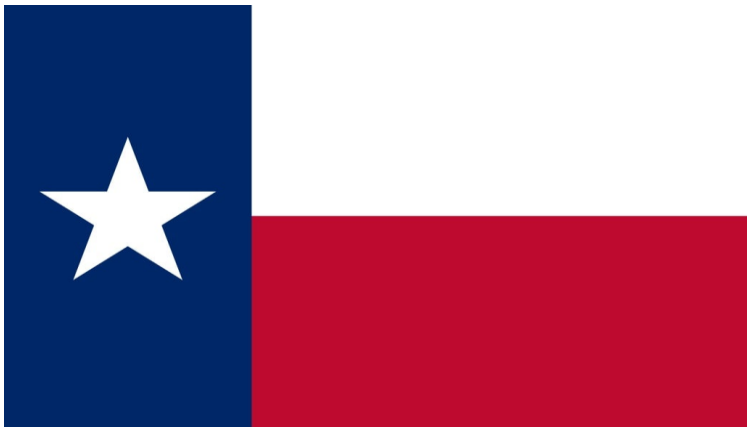
The Stars and Stripes History:

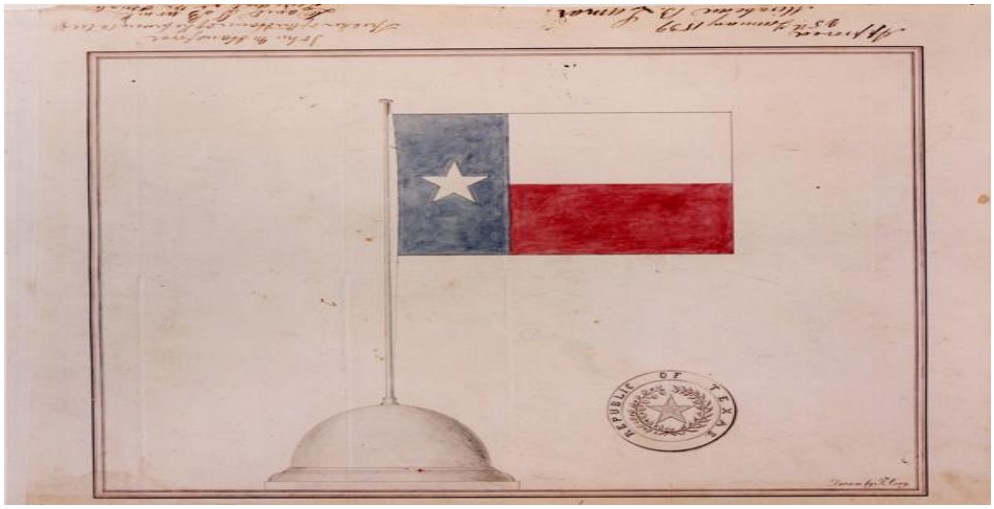
The colors of the U.S. flag are full of meaning. **Red** stands for bravery and strength, **white** represents purity and innocence, and **blue** symbolizes justice and perseverance. The Stars and Stripes remind Americans of the sacrifices made to build and protect the country. It flies proudly over schools, government buildings, and homes, and is displayed during important national holidays like Independence Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day.

When people see the American flag, they often feel unity and pride because it represents the entire nation—different people, backgrounds, and states, all coming together as one country.

<u>The Lone Star: Texas Pride</u>

The **Lone Star Flag** belongs to the state of **Texas**. It was adopted as the official state flag in **1839**, when Texas was still an independent country known as the **Republic of Texas**. The single white star on the flag became such an important symbol that Texas is still called **"The Lone Star State."**





The original design for the Republic of Texas flag by Peter Krag, the design was approved on January 25, 1839, and signed by Mirabeau Lamar, President of the Republic of Texas.

The flag has three main parts: a **blue vertical stripe** with a single white star on the left, and two horizontal bars—**white on top** and **red on the bottom**. Each color has a special meaning too. **Blue** stands for loyalty, **white** for purity, and **red** for bravery. The single star represents unity as one state and independence from other nations. Texans take great pride in this flag because it reminds them of their unique history and their time as an independent republic before joining the United States in **1845**.

The Lone Star Flag is more than just a state symbol—it represents Texas's bold and independent spirit. Whether it's seen flying over the Texas State Capitol in Austin, at a school, or at a football game, it reminds Texans of their identity and strength.

Similarities Between the Two Flags

Even though the Stars and Stripes and the Lone Star are different, they share many similarities. Both flags represent **freedom, courage, and unity**. Their colors are the same and stand for similar values. Both flags honour people who fought for independence and justice. And both are powerful symbols that inspire pride in those who live under them.

Another interesting similarity is that both flags tell a story about **independence**. The Stars and Stripes represent a country that broke free from British rule, while the Lone Star represents a state that once stood on its own before joining that same country. Together, they show how independence and unity can exist side by side.

Differences Between the Two Flags

However, the two flags also have key differences. The **Stars and Stripes** represent all **50 states** and the entire nation, while the **Lone Star** represents only **Texas**. The U.S. flag has many stars and stripes to show unity among many parts, while the Texas flag has just one star to symbolize a single, proud state. The meanings of independence are also slightly different: the U.S. flag stands for freedom as a nation, while the Texas flag recalls the state's independent spirit within that nation.

Conclusion

Both the **Stars and Stripes** and the **Lone Star** are symbols of pride, courage, and freedom. The American flag unites an entire country under one banner, while the Texas flag celebrates the strength and individuality of one great state. Together, they remind us that being American means honouring our shared history while also respecting the unique identity of each state. Whether we salute the Stars and Stripes or the Lone Star, both stand tall as powerful reminders of what it means to be free, brave, and united.

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