

# Flag Facts



- Alaska has a very simple and unique state flag. The blue field of the design represents the Alaska sky and the forget-me-not flower that is found throughout the state. The flag also features stars designed to represent the Big Dipper, which represents the symbol of a bear. Ursa Major the Great Bear contains an asterism, or collection of stars, that is a hallmark of Northern Hemisphere skies. The Big Dipper, or the Plow, is a portion of the Great Bear that represents the back half of the bear's torso. There is also a star that represents Polaris. This is a symbol of determining true north and was included in an original design before Alaska became a state to symbolize Alaska's future as a state.
- Alaska's flag was officially adopted on July 9, 1927.
- What's unique about Alaska's state flag is that it was designed before it even became a state. In 1927, a contest was held by the American Legion. The contest was for children, and the goal of the contest was to design a future flag to represent Alaska. The winner of the contest was a 13-year-old boy named Benny Benson, beating out approximately 700 other designs.
- The original flag flown in Alaska was the flag of the Russian American Company, which governed Alaska. The Russian-American Company, Russian trading monopoly that established colonies in North America (primarily in California and Alaska) during the 19th century. This flag was flown from 1806 through 1867.



- The Territory of Alaska was an organized incorporated territory of the United States from August 24, 1912, until Alaska was granted statehood on January 3, 1959. The territory was previously Russian America, 1784–1867; the Department of Alaska, 1867–1884; and the District of Alaska, 1884–1912.