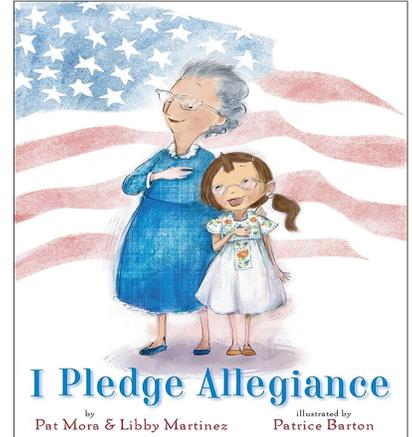


I Pledge Allegiance by Pat Mora and Libby Martinez

Book Synopsis: In Pat Mora and Libby Martinez's *I Pledge Allegiance*, Libby's great-aunt, Lobo, has lived in the United States for many years, but she was born in Mexico. Lobo just passed her citizenship test and is preparing to say the Pledge of Allegiance at a special ceremony, while Libby is preparing to lead her class in the Pledge. As they practice together, Libby learns about Lobo's journey from Mexico and her connection to the United States and the importance of each phrase in the Pledge of Allegiance and their family's history.

A recorded reading of this book is [available here](#).



Connection to Iowa History

Iowa has been the destination for immigrants since it began welcoming settlers in the 1830s. Following the Black Hawk War when Native Americans were pressured to relinquish title to a significant portion of eastern Iowa, early settlers from eastern states began to arrive in the Iowa territory. By the late 1840s, waves of immigrants arrived from Germany, Ireland and other European countries facing hardships such as war and famine. Immigrants from Italy, Russia and Eastern Europe followed between the late 1800s and World War I. Beginning in the 1970s, Iowa's Governor Robert Ray invited Vietnamese refugees to the state and was also "pushed" Bosnians, Ethiopians and others from Asia and Africa to seek new homes in Iowa. Immigration to Iowa continues today with new arrivals from around the world.

Goldie's Kids Club Storytime Activity

After reading the story, use the activity sheet to create and design your own paper American flag.

Instructions ([Video Instructions Available](#))

- 1 Gather.** Gather all listed materials to complete the craft.
- 2 Research.** Head online or take a look in a book for reference images of the United States flag.
- 3 Tear.** The flag will be created with torn paper. Tear the following: one blue square about 3 inches wide and 3 inches wide, six long strips of white paper torn horizontally and a bunch of small circle-like shapes of white paper (ideally 50). The red construction paper will remain its original size (8x11 inches).
- 4 Lay Down.** Lay the sheet of red construction paper on a flat surface. The long side of the sheet should be facing you.
- 5 Stripes.** Using the glue stick, attach the white strips of paper lengthwise on the red paper. Leave space in between each white strip to create red and white stripes.
- 6 Glue.** Glue the blue square to the upper left hand corner of the red paper. You will cover part of some stripes when doing this.

Materials

- 1 Blue Sheet of Construction Paper
- 1 White Sheet of Construction Paper
- 1 Red Sheet of Construction Paper
- Glue or Glue Stick

Instructions continued on next page

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Instructions continued

- 7 Decorate.** Add the smaller white circles using the glue stick onto the blue square. You can either copy the flag design or create your own design.
- 8 Share!** After you make your flag, share your work with the State Historical Museum of Iowa. Email a photo of your creation to museum.education@iowa.gov. We want to share your work with others!
- 9 Questions to Spark Learning**
 - Lobo said that she likes the words, “Liberty and Justice for All.” What do liberty and justice mean to you?
 - Lobo shares with Libby the story of how she came to the United States. What is your family’s story?
 - Lobo became an American citizen. By saying the “Pledge of Allegiance,” Lobo declares that she is a responsible citizen to the United States. What does it mean to be a responsible citizen?