



Name _____

Nonfiction: Biography

Date _____

BETSY ROSS

Seamstress. Designer. Businesswoman. Mother of seven. Quaker. How are these words all alike? They all describe Betsy Ross.

It is said that Betsy made the first flag, but we may never know for sure. We know that she sat on the bench in church with George Washington. She sewed buttons on his coats. She was the niece of George Ross, one of the men who signed the Declaration of Independence. Betsy also had a large sewing business in her town.

Betsy changed the original design of the flag. She made a better size and shape for the stars. She felt the stars should be in a circle. Each one should have five points, not six. The first flag had 13 stars in a circle for the 13 Colonies. Today there are 50 states and fifty stars. The colors and meaning of the flag have stayed the same. It is our symbol to the world. When people see our flag, they think of America. Hopefully, many people also think of the famous American who made it.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What changes did Betsy make before sewing the flag?
 - a. size, shape, and colors
 - b. color and shape
 - c. shape of the stars
 - d. meaning, stitches, and the name of the flag

2. *Seamstress* most likely means . . .
 - a. nibble on seams.
 - b. design stars.
 - c. fly flags.
 - d. make dresses.

3. Which statement is **NOT** written about Betsy Ross?
 - a. She had seven children.
 - b. She was a mean, nasty woman.
 - c. She sewed buttons onto George Washington's coats.
 - d. She was a designer.

4. According to the passage, the American flag is our . . .
 - a. color.
 - b. bird.
 - c. symbol.
 - d. signal.