

Our promise to our flag and country

Many school children begin each day by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

In the Pledge, we promise to be loyal to our nation.

Our nation was born with the Declaration of Independence in 1776. However, it was more than 120 years later before the Pledge was written.

In 1892, America celebrated the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus landing in the Americas.

A children's magazine wanted to get young people involved in the patriotic celebration.

Francis Bellamy, who was a Baptist minister and a Christian socialist, wrote the Pledge of Allegiance. He wanted something children could remember and say in 15 seconds. It was printed in *The Youth's Companion* on Sept. 8, 1892.

President Benjamin Harrison agreed that the pledge was a good idea.

School children across the nation recited the Pledge on Oct. 12, Columbus Day. That same day, a world's fair opened in Chicago, Illinois. The fair was called the World's Columbian Exposition.

Original pledge

This is the original Pledge that Bellamy wrote:

"I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the republic for which it stands: one nation indivisible with liberty and justice for all."

Changing the Pledge

In 1923, the words "my flag" were changed to "the flag of the United States." In 1924, the words "of America" were added.

Originally, the pledge was recited with a salute that ended with an outstretched arm. How-



ever, President Franklin Roosevelt thought it looked like a Nazi salute. He suggested a hand over the heart during the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner.

In 1942, Congress made the Pledge official and adopted Roosevelt's salute.

Louis A. Bowman added the words "under God" to the Pledge at a meeting of the Sons of the American Revolution on Feb. 12, 1948. His idea became popular.

Congress and President Dwight Eisenhower made "under God" an official part of the pledge on Flag Day, June 14, 1954.

Word Scramble

Unscramble these words

TANNIO BUSCOLMU

ESTLUA CAMIRAE

Newspaper activity

A synonym is a word with the same or nearly the same meaning as another word. Search through your newspaper to see if you can find a synonym for any of these words from the Pledge of Allegiance:

Allegiance _____

Republic _____

Nation _____

Indivisible _____

Liberty _____

Justice _____

