



THOMASVILLE

HISTORY CENTER

Civil War Unit Flag

Flags:

Flags were sewn from silk and represented the different regiments or units that carried them. The colors and symbols chosen had meaning. The flags were a gathering point for soldiers when their formation was broken or when they were separated from their units. There were certain rules and rituals that went along with the flag and how it was handled, stored and carried in battle.

Learn more: National Park Service, "Symbols of Honor,"

<https://www.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/flags/civilwar2.htm>

National Museum of American History, "The Flag in the Civil War,"

<https://amhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/the-flag-in-the-civil-war.aspx>

At the History Center:

The History Center has three unit flags from the Civil War. They represent the Dixie Boys, the Ochlocknee Light Infantry, and the Thomasville Guards.

Dixie Boys



Ochlocknee Light Infantry:



Thomasville Guards



The flags were conserved, or protected, in the 1960s.

Flag Symbols

Did you know that the study of flags is called vexillology? Below is a chart showing what the different colors represented:

Blue	Vigilance, perseverance, justice, determination, liberation, alertness, good fortune
White	Purity, peace, harmony, surrender
Red	Hardiness, courage, power, revolution, vibrancy, bloodshed
Black	Determination, defeat of enemies

Green	Agriculture, prosperity
Yellow or Gold	Wealth, energy
Orange	Courage, sacrifice

Sources:

http://www.kawvalley.k12.ks.us/schools/rjh/marneyg/archived_projects/2000Projects/00TheCivilWarFlagsConfederateandUnionRA.htm

<https://www.allstarflags.com/facts/color-meanings-in-flags/>

Unit Flags



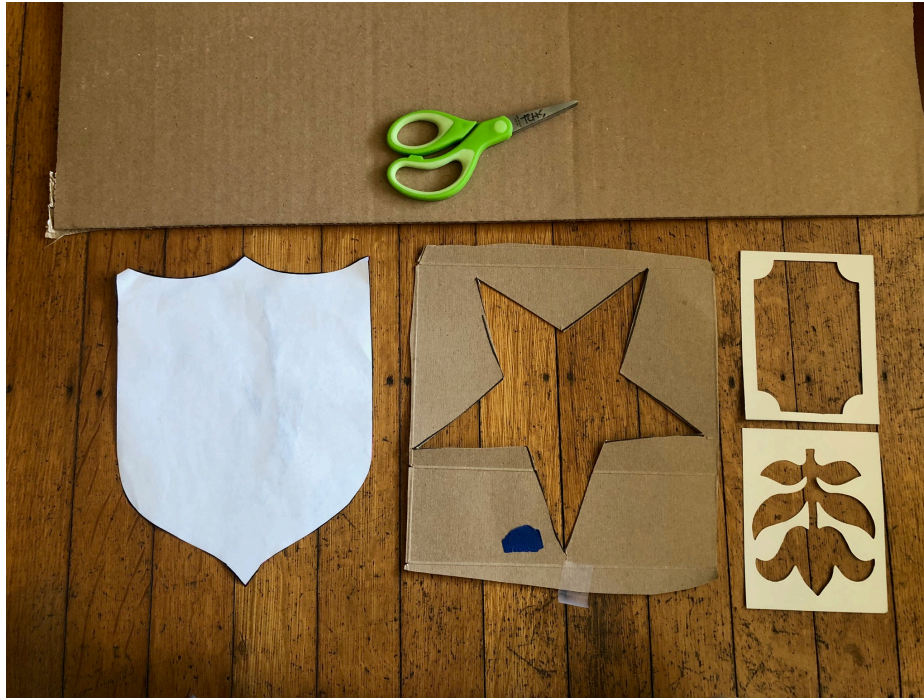
Supplies:

- Construction paper, cardstock, scrapbook paper
- White cardstock or plain paper (base)
- Scissors
- Gluestick

- Ruler
- Pencil
- Stencils (pre-made)
- Cardboard or cereal box (to make stencils)

Instructions

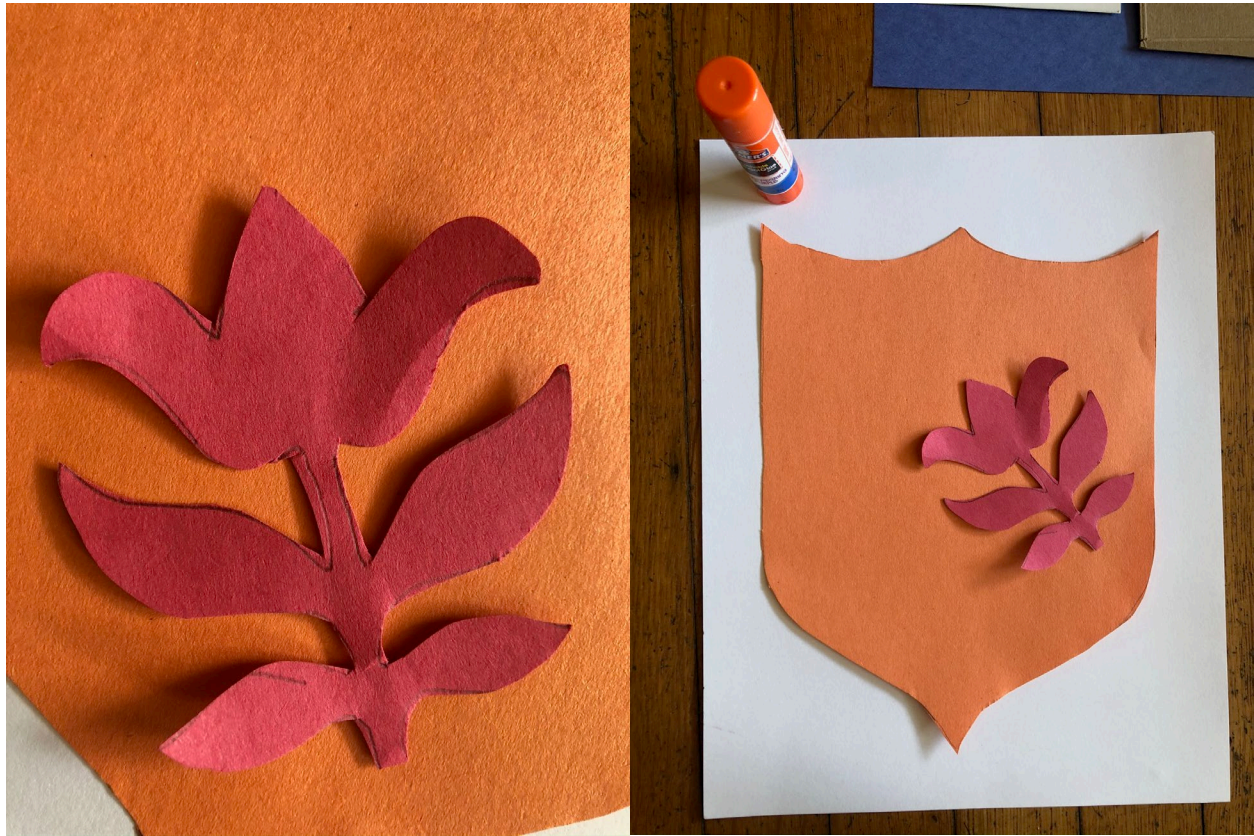
Step 1: Make your stencils: trace desired shapes onto cereal box, try not to cut through the edges so that you can use both the negative (outline) and the positive (shape) of the stencil for this or future projects.



Step 2: Use stencils to trace shapes on construction paper and cut out.



Step 3. Choose your base paper (color or white). Arrange your cut out shapes in the order and design of your choosing. Put glue on the side with the pencil markings so you do not see it on the finished product. Glue all pieces down.



What does your flag mean? Write an “exhibit label” explaining the symbols you chose for your flag.

Here’s an example:

The History Center Unit Flag has an orange shield to represent the bravery of soldiers on both sides of the Civil War who left home to fight and the sacrifices they made. The flower represents the families who waited at home and supported the war effort.