



GOD BLESS AMERICA

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Celebrate America's Colorful History

America is a nation of dreamers, world changers, and creative thinkers. Founded on the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, our nation is strongest when we are united. Sometimes, though, it's easy to become caught up in the troubles we face as a nation—war, economic strife, political discord, social discontent. But as Adlai Stevenson so appropriately stated, "If America ever loses confidence in herself, she will retain the confidence of no one, and she will lose her chance to be free, because the fearful are never free."

The fearful are never free.

That is why we created this coloring book—to take you from fear into quiet reflection on God's sovereignty over our nation. Coloring can't change the world, but it can help change your perspective. As you color these patriotic images, take the time to reflect on the quotes from our Founding Fathers, historic documents, presidents, Scripture, patriotic songs, and inspirational quotes from America's heroes. Take the time to mull over what makes America a truly amazing country—our values of equality, opportunity, faith, family, character, generosity, justice, and perseverance.

Use this book to help quiet your mind as you spend time with God, use it to help you relax after a long day of working, or use it to simply find a unique outlet for your creativity. Ultimately, let it remind you how blessed we are to live in a nation as extraordinary as the United States of America, and let the words of the patriots from American history inspire you to help keep this country amazing. And if you Instagram any of your coloring pages, we'd love it if you could hashtag them with #ColoringAmerica.

A link to a Spotify playlist called "Coloring America" is at the back of this book. As you color, have it playing in the background to enhance your patriotic experience.

We hope that as you take the time to color and reflect on our nation's history, its present, its future, and all the ways the Almighty has carefully guided our country, you will be inspired to live out the words of George Washington from his farewell address, "Observe good faith and justice towards all nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all."

And may God bless America.



"Where liberty dwells, there is my country." —Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790) wrote these words in 1773 in a letter to his British friend Benjamin Vaughan, a participant in the negotiations for peace between England and the United States.

Franklin is best known as one of the Founding Fathers who drafted and signed the Declaration of Independence. He was also a member of the Continental Congress and a signer of the United States Constitution.

Benjamin Franklin is one of the most notable individuals in our nation's history. In addition to his accomplishments as a civic leader, diplomat, and statesman, he was a writer, printer, publisher, philosopher, humorist, scientist, and inventor. His inventions were as diverse as the topics he studied and include the lightning rod, bifocals, swim fins, the odometer, the urinary catheter, and the Franklin stove. He also was instrumental in furthering our understanding of electricity and the movement of ocean currents.

In 1732, Benjamin Franklin published the first *Poor Richard's Almanack*, which contained many proverbs and idioms forever tied to Franklin, such as "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise"; "Well done is better than well said"; and "Fish and visitors smell after three days."



The Star-Spangled Banner

by Francis Scott Key

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light, What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming? Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight, O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?

And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there. O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

At the sight of the American flag still flying over Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland—after a twenty-five-hour bombardment by British forces—Francis Scott Key penned these lines on the back of a letter while trying to secure the release of a friend held captive aboard a British ship. This poem, written on September 14, 1814, became the first verse of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and propelled the flag into prominence as an expression of patriotism, endurance, and courage. A congressional resolution in 1931, signed by President Herbert Hoover, officially designated "The Star-Spangled Banner" as our national anthem.



The phrase "In God We Trust" made its appearance on our currency by an Act of Congress in 1864. When the motto was omitted from new gold coins in 1907, public uproar resulted in a law that made "In God We Trust" mandatory on all coins on which it had previously appeared. Legislation approved on July 11, 1955, made "In God We Trust" mandatory on all US coins and paper currency.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law the declaration "In God We Trust" as the nation's official motto on July 30, 1956.