

## Public Art Studio

Create your own flags inspired by  
**Odili Donald Odita's artwork!**

Odita's flags are inspired by the American flag and the Nigerian flag. Here, red, white, and blue are met with their complementary colors: green, black, and orange. Complementary colors are found opposite of each other on the color wheel. When used together, the colors work to both enhance and contrast each other.

The artist believes that much like the unison of complementary colors, the integration of different countries, nationalities, and races can enhance and complement one another.



*Odili Donald Odita, Negative Space, 2019; series of thirteen flags on flagpoles*

**Before you start your design, check out this helpful worksheet for questions and ideas on how to create your own flag inspired by Odili Donald Odita's artwork.**

### Questions and Tips for Designing Your Own Flag

#### Question 1

History shows us that flags are primarily used as a symbol of a nation, state, or collective community. Recently people have started using flags for more personal reasons like showing support for a favorite sports team, political opinion, religious beliefs, or even catchy slogans.

So, what kind of flag will you create? Do you want to create a flag for a new country, a flag to say something you feel strongly about, or is your flag more relaxed and humorous?



*United States of America Flag*



*Oldest flag ever discovered from Shahdad, a city in Iran from 2400 BC!*



*Dr. Alice Paul, founder of the early American*



*Flag inspired by the cartoon character SpongeBob!*

## Question 2

What colors does your flag have and what do those colors mean? This can be as simple as the colors you like, or you can come up with interesting and specific reasons for the colors you choose. Here are some flag colors explained:



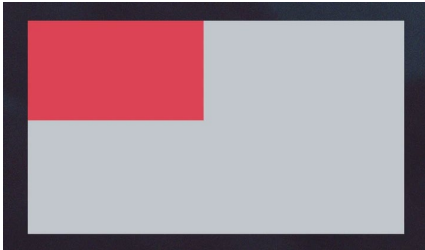
*The white color of the Japanese flag represents honesty and integrity. The crimson red circle symbolizes the sun goddess Amaterasu (天照) the ancestor of Japan's emperors and the mythical founder of Japan.*



*The flag of Nigeria, where Odili Donald Odita was born has two colors: white and green. The green stripes represent the wealth of the country and the white band represents peace. The flag was designed in 1960 when Nigeria gained independence from Britain.*

### Question 3

What design will you choose for your flag? Here are some examples of basic flag design. You can choose one of these as your template or get creative and come up with something original!



Canton (rectangle in top left corner)



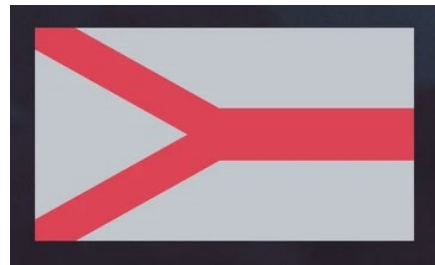
Pales (3 bands of color)



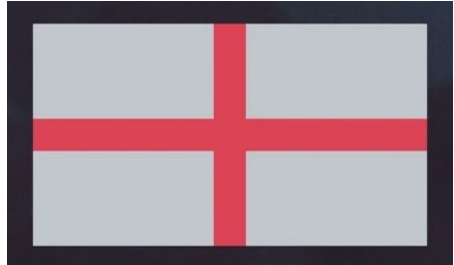
Quarterly design



Chevron design



Pall design



Symmetrical cross design

### Question 4

Where do you see your flag flying? Would it be in your front yard or on Mars? Would you like to see your flag large or would you like it to be small and handheld? Write your answers below:

My flag would be as large as \_\_\_\_\_

Where would my flag fly?

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What will be the best thing about my flag?

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Ready to design your own flag? Design your flag on a plain piece of paper or check out this online template [here!](https://uhsystem.edu/public-art/color-field/odili-odita/) [uhsystem.edu/public-art/color-field/odili-odita/](https://uhsystem.edu/public-art/color-field/odili-odita/)