

# Florida State Flag

Sunshine State • Capital: Tallahassee • Statehood: 1845

## Overview

A red saltire on white, over which sits the state seal. Palms, water and sun reflect Florida's warmth; a Seminole woman scatters flowers at the water's edge. The flag is a collision of colonial cross and subtropical abundance.

### Flag specifications

Adopted: 1900-11-06  
Designer: Legislative adoption  
Ratio: 2:3  
White field with red diagonal cross and state seal at center.

#### Colors

#FFFFFF #B00000 #FFD700 #008000 #0000FF

### Symbolism

|             |                                                                                                           |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| red saltire | Represents heritage and is reminiscent of the Confederate battle flag.                                    |
| state seal  | Highlights Florida's natural beauty and resources, including a Seminole woman, steamboat, and sabal palm. |

### Historical timeline

- 1845: Florida admitted as 27th state.
- 1900: Red saltire added to the flag.
- 1868 — Early seal-on-white field flag without red saltire.

### Notable facts

- One of two state flags with a red saltire (the other is Alabama).
- Florida is known as the Sunshine State for its climate and tourism.
- The red saltire is based on the Cross of St. Andrew.
- The state seal is placed at the center of the flag.
- The white field represents peace and purity.
- The design was adopted to avoid confusion with a plain white flag.
- The current version of the flag was adopted in 1900.
- The seal depicts natural resources and early settler life.

### Seal deep dive

**redSaltire**  
A red diagonal cross (saltire) extending to the corners of the flag.  
Meaning: Historical ties to Spanish heritage and distinction from a plain white field

**stateSeal**  
The Great Seal of the State of Florida placed at the center.  
Meaning: Florida's Native heritage, natural resources, commerce, and optimism

**motto**  
The state motto encircling the seal: 'In God We Trust'.  
Meaning: Expression of faith and guiding principles

### Vexillology notes

Design type: State seal on saltire field  
Complexity: 8/10  
Readability: 4/10



Printable reference sheet for classroom use.