

New York State Flag

Empire State • Capital: Albany • Statehood: 1788-07-26

Overview

On a dark blue field sits the New York State coat of arms. At its center is a shield showing a river, mountains, and a rising sun. Liberty and Justice stand as supporters, while an eagle rests atop a globe above the motto 'Excelsior,' meaning 'Ever Upward.'

Flag specifications

Adopted: 1901-04-02
Designer: Legislative adoption
Ratio: 1:2
Dark blue field with the New York State coat of arms centered

Colors

    
#002D72 #FFD700 #FFFFFF #FF0000 #008000

Symbolism

blue field	Represents vigilance and justice.
liberty	Symbolizes freedom from tyranny and monarchy.
justice	Represents fairness and rule of law.
sunrise	Symbolizes hope and a new beginning.
eagle	Represents strength, vigilance, and national sovereignty.
globe	Symbolizes global reach and awareness.

Historical timeline

- 1778: First New York coat of arms designed.
- 1901: Current flag officially adopted.
- 2020: 'E Pluribus Unum' added to the state seal.

Notable facts

- The motto 'Excelsior' means 'Ever Upward.'
- The state nickname 'Empire State' reflects wealth and influence.
- Liberty and Justice appear as human supporters on the flag.
- The eagle is perched on a globe rather than a shield.
- The design is classified as a seal-on-blue flag.
- The rising sun symbolizes progress and renewal.
- The flag contains two Latin mottos.
- The design has remained largely unchanged since 1901.

Seal deep dive

liberty
Represents freedom and independence.

justice
Represents fairness and impartial law.

shield
Meaning: Trade routes, geography, and economic foundation

eagle
Meaning: Strength, vigilance, and global outlook

Vexillology notes

Design type: Seal on blue

Complexity: 8/10

Readability: 3/10

Printable reference sheet for classroom use.