

South Carolina State Flag

Palmetto State • Capital: Columbia • Statehood: 1788

Overview

Indigo ground with white palmetto tree at centre and crescent in canton. The palmetto recalls the state's Revolutionary War defence at Fort Moultrie; the crescent echoes the uniform badge worn by soldiers. Simple, striking, and among the nation's finest designs.

Flag specifications

Adopted: 1861-01-28
Designer: Colonial militia design
Ratio: 2:3
Blue field with white crescent in canton and palmetto tree centered.

Colors



Symbolism

crescent	Represents emblem worn on Revolutionary War caps.
palmetto tree	Symbol of defense during the 1776 Battle of Sullivan's Island.

Historical timeline

- 1776: Palmetto tree became symbol during Battle of Sullivan's Island.
- 1861: Flag officially adopted by legislature.

Notable facts

- Palmetto is the state tree of South Carolina.
- The palmetto tree symbolizes defense and resilience.
- The crescent represents liberty.
- The design dates back to the American Revolutionary War.
- Indigo blue reflects the original militia uniforms.
- The flag contains no text or seal.
- A 1910 law set a standard version, but since 1940 state law has not specified a standard.

Seal deep dive

palmettoTree	A white palmetto tree centered on the flag. Meaning: Defense, resilience, and victory, referencing the palmetto-log fort at the Battle of Sullivan's Island
crescent	A white crescent located in the upper hoist corner. Meaning: Honor and the legacy of South Carolina troops during the American Revolution
field	Deep indigo-blue background. Meaning: Liberty, dignity, and historical continuity

Vexillology notes

Design type: Symbolic emblem flag
Complexity: 2/10
Readability: 10/10



Printable reference sheet for classroom use.