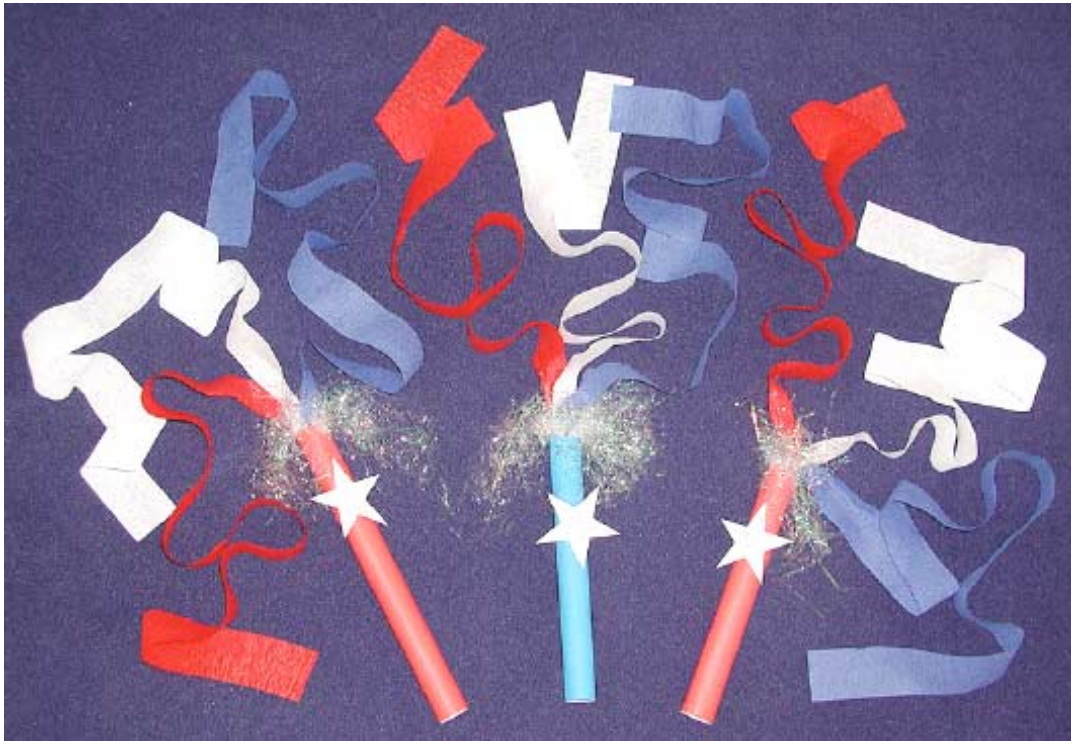


## Parade of Colors

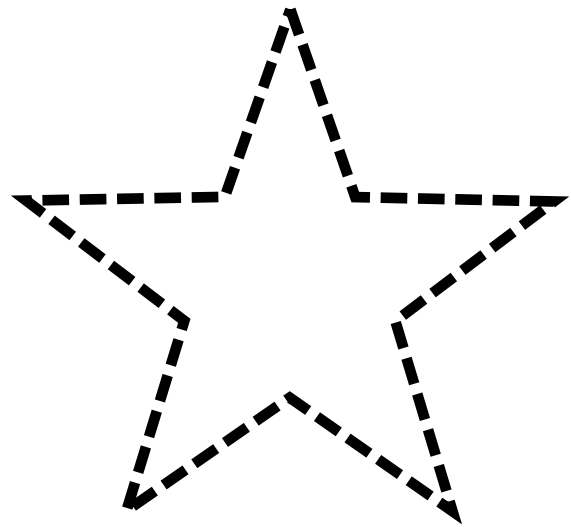
### Make Wands to Wave for the 4th of July and Memorial Day.

Children can wave their wands back and forth and make large circles as they dance and march in a parade. Or, they can just watch as the light crepe paper streamers blow in the wind.



**The Wands are easy to make with readily available materials.**

1. Roll an 8.5" x 11" sheet of construction paper into a tube which is about 1" in diameter.
2. Fasten the tube with a small piece of tape at each end and a third piece in the middle.
3. Cut a red, white, and blue crepe paper streamer, each 36" long.
4. Fold an end of each streamer in half. Hold the folded ends together and fasten with a staple or glue.
5. Put a piece of tape onto the joined ends and stick them into the top of the wand. Press the taped streamer ends into place.
6. Gather a bunch of glittery grass, curling ribbon or anything that sparkles. Twist it together in the center and tie tightly with a bit of ribbon.
7. Put a piece of tape onto the ribbon and stick it into the wand. Press the tape to secure it.
8. Cut out the star and tape it onto the front of the wand.
9. If you wish, decorate the wand and streamers with glitter, sequins, or sparkles.
10. Show the children how to wave the red, white, and blue wand as they march or dance.



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## Background Information for Teachers and Parents

### Two National Holidays

#### Memorial (Decoration) Day

Only months after the end of the American Civil War (1861-1865), a small-town druggist named Henry Welles began to plan a day of remembrance for the war's casualties. On May 5<sup>th</sup> 1866, in the little upstate New York town of Waterloo, citizens gathered to decorate the graves of the town's dead soldiers with flowers and wreaths. They called it Decoration Day. Two years later, General John A. Logan, Commander in Chief of the Union Army, ordered that May 30<sup>th</sup> be set aside each year "for strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country..." The idea spread rapidly through the Northern states, and in 1882 the ceremony was designated Memorial Day.

Many Southern states chose other springtime dates to honor their war dead, but as the Civil War receded into history, the nation came together on a single day, now the last Monday in May, to pay honor to all those who have died defending their homeland.



#### Independence Day (4<sup>th</sup> of July)

In 1774 the thirteen British colonies in America, unhappy about being taxed without any say in the matter, convened the First Continental Congress to see if some solution to the problem short of war could be found. In April 1775, British troops sent to put down the threatened rebellion advanced on Concord, Massachusetts. Paul Revere, riding through the night shouting "The British are Coming", roused the people, and the Battle of Concord began with "the shot heard round the world."

After another year of trying to find a peaceful solution, the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia and in June established a committee to draft a statement formally cutting the colonies' ties with Great Britain. This document, mostly written by Thomas Jefferson, was *The Declaration of Independence*. It was officially adopted by the Congress on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776.

Since then, people across America have celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Independence Day, with speeches, fireworks, picnics, games, parades with marching bands, and the ringing of bells, including—for a while—the great bell in Philadelphia's Independence Square. This bell, once known as "The Province Bell", was renamed "The Liberty Bell" because of its inscription: "Proclaim Liberty Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants Thereof."

We hope you and the children you work with will enjoy using the activities at [FunLessonPlans.com](http://FunLessonPlans.com)

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