



SÄNDNINGSDATUM: 2007-12-04

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## **Flag Stories – in English**

### **Mauritius – Mexico – Morocco – Nepal**

#### **Script**

##### **Mauritius**

This flag comes from an island in the Indian Ocean. It is famous for its turquoise seas and beautiful beaches. The capital is called Port Louis. Can you guess? It is called Mauritius!

Many armies planted their flags on the island over the years.

The Portuguese discovered the island, which they named Swan Island.

Then the Dutch conquered it and named it Mauritius.

But then, the French came along and changed its name to Island of France. The French ended up giving it to the British, who went back to the name Mauritius.

In 1968, the island became independent and the Mauritian people finally chose the colors of their flag.

The red stands for their long awaited freedom. Blue is for the Indian Ocean. The yellow is for the people's independence. And the green represents the tropical plants which grow all year long.

##### **Mexico**

This flag comes from a country located south of the United States. The people wear traditional dress of ponchos and sombreros.

Now if I tell you the capital is Mexico City that would be too easy ... Right! It's Mexico.

To understand this flag we must travel back to the Mexican Independence War. At the time two generals, who were enemies, signed a peace treaty under three conditions; independence, equality and religious unity. And that's where the colors come from; white for Catholicism, green for independence and red for unity.

The symbol in the middle, an eagle eating a snake, was inspired by an Aztec legend. The Aztec God of Sun and War claimed that a city could only be built where you could find an eagle eating a snake over a cactus tree. Not easy to find! Well, they had that exact vision in 1325 and named the city Tenochtitlan, which later became Mexico City.



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## Morocco

Today's flag comes from a North African country opposite Spain. It is famous for the Atlas Mountains, its large desert and it is governed by a King. They cook delicious tajines, a kind of stew. Can you guess? It is Morocco!

The Moroccan flag used to be red until the French added a star with five branches so it would be easier to recognize. In 1956, the country became independent. First it was a sultanate and then it became a kingdom, but the flag didn't change.

The green symbol you see in the middle is often called Solomon's star. It stands for the miraculous seal God gave King Solomon, who was King David's son. It illustrates heaven on earth; perfect harmony between mind and matter, sky and earth, water and fire. A divine picture

The color green represents Islam, the most important religion in Morocco where there are many mosques with the muezzins calling for people to pray.

## Nepal

This flag comes from a small Asian kingdom located between two giant countries: India and China.

The King reigns over the highest mountain in the world, Mount Everest. The capital city is Katmandu...yes it's Nepal.

Nepal's flag is also very... tall and original! The drawing stands for the Himalayan Mountains, also called the roof of the world.

The Nepalese flag dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1962, the Nepalese decided on the version of the flag that you see now.

The sun and the moon that you see in the center of the flag symbolize the people's desire to live as long as the two heavenly bodies. This wisdom is reminiscent of Buddhism, which is the main religion of Nepal. The color red represents the victory of the Nepalese people for as long as the sun and the moon shine.