

## BLUE SKY WHITE STARS: UN CIELO AZUL BLANCA ESTRELLAS written by Sarvinder Naberhaus



**Sarvinder Naberhaus** came to the United States with her family when she was nearly four years old and continues to live in the heartland of America.

Sarvinder's second book, *Blue Sky White Stars* is created with Caldecott winner, Coretta Scott King and NYTimes best-selling illustrator Kadir Nelson. It was Time Magazine's top 10 children's books of the year, a blue ribbon book for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and hailed by Entertainment Weekly, HuffPost, NPR and more. It garnered 4 starred reviews and won several awards.

### »» BEFORE READING

It is best to read together, often. Plan time to read this book to your children or class a few times over the next week.

### »» ACTIVITIES

#### REFLECT ON FAMILY HISTORY

(Ages 3-5 years)

Begin by teaching children about history in simple ways. Talk about their place in history; teach the names of your city, state and our country, America. Share about how long your family has lived in your current city and where they lived before that. Researching local landmarks, kid-friendly museums, traffic signs, building signs and maps can all help with this.

Visit a living history museum to travel back in time to experience life in a different era.

#### While you read:

Talk about how the images or words could reflect America. Explain anything on the pages that children may not understand.

**Ask Questions like:** What do you notice when looking at the illustrations? What are your favorite things about

America? What is something that makes you proud? What does freedom mean to you?

Share about the colors, expressions, actions or things in nature on the pages.


History offers real-life stories to inspire. Below are additional stories to share. Each picture book in this series by Brad Meltzer is a biography of an American hero, told in a simple, conversational way. They focus on a character trait that makes them heroic. This video shares more about the work: [Ordinary People Change the World](#). Here are just a few of those books to share with children.

"I am Sacajawea"

"I am Abraham Lincoln"

"I am Harriet Tubman"

For more information about Brad Meltzer including activities, visit this site: [Q & A | Ordinary People Change the World](#).

Below is another historical book that shares about how life was like for kids and grownups in colonial America. You can point out that people in earlier times were just like us in many ways, but many of the technologies we use today hadn't been invented yet. Ask your child how we might do things if we didn't have phones, computers or cars. 

“If You Lived In Colonial Times” by Ann McGovern

Use this book to supplement learning about the alphabet:

A Is for America: “A Patriotic Alphabet Book” by Tanya Lee Stone

### **ACTIVITY ONE: FAMILY INTERVIEW**

(Ages 4-5+ years)

**NOTE:** This is a great activity to do as a class project. There are many ways to conduct interviews. Do this as a home connection to get family more involved.

You can set up an in person or phone call interview. If you both have access, try it via Zoom, FaceTime, or Google Hangout.

Send this [template](#) home with directions for families to help children write the answers and then return it to school to make a class book. Give instructions for families to begin by asking the interviewee their full name, birth date, and where they were born. Laminate them or save them in sheet protectors in a binder. Hole punch the cards and tie them together, use a binder ring or brass fastener. You can keep these interviews in a class binder for children to read at a center and send them all home at the end of the week or unit.

Here are other questions to use for interviewing family members:

1. What is your full, legal name?
2. Do you have any nicknames?
3. What did your parents call you?
4. Has your name changed since birth?
5. What is your date of birth?
6. What city, state and country were you born in?
7. What was the hospital name? Or address, if you were born in a home?
8. What is your mother’s full maiden name?
9. What is your mother’s nationality or heritage?
10. What is your father’s full name?
11. What is your father’s nationality or heritage?

Extension: interview more family members to create a family history.

### **ACTIVITY TWO: LITERACY ACTIVITY**

(Ages 3-5 years)

Children can practice fine motor skills and literacy with help by cutting out words to match their families to fill out this [family tree](#).

### **ACTIVITY THREE: MUSIC ACTIVITY**

(Ages 2+ years)

Here are fun patriotic versions of songs for children. You can play these during art activity time or for gross motor activity times so children can dance

[America the Beautiful](#)

[The Star Spangled Banner](#)

[This Land is Your Land](#)

### **ACTIVITY FOUR: ART ACTIVITY**

(Ages 2+ years)

Supplies needed:

- White coffee filters or paper towels
- Red and blue liquid colors
- Paintbrushes or eye droppers
- Bowls or cups for the water
- Cookie sheet or tray to work on
- Scissors
- [Star template](#) or freehand your stars
- [Paint palettes](#)

Directions:

1. Pour paint in the palettes of cups.
2. Each child can use brushes or eye droppers to paint stars. Cut enough that children can do several stars.



## ACTIVITY FIVE: SENSORY ACTIVITY

(Ages 0+ years)

Supplies needed:

- Painters tape
- Paint brushes
- Washable paint (red, white, & blue)
- White construction, printer paper, or butcher paper
- Dish soap
- Bins/totes with warm soapy water
- Towels
- Star stickers or stamps

**Notes:** This activity is fun to do outdoors when the weather is nice. Set up wash bins so children can play with water too when they are cleaning up their feet and hands. You can do one large class flag with everyone or each child can make their own like the picture.



**Directions:** Before you begin this project with older children (3-5+ years old), look at the American flag. Talk about the colors, name the stripes and stars.

1. If children have their own papers, have them practice writing their names on the back. If using one piece for the class, unroll a large piece of butcher paper and tape it on the floor.
2. Talk about making the lines of the flag by walking along straight. You can prepare the butcher paper ahead by drawing lines for the flag.
3. Children take turns to remove their shoes and socks and paint their own feet red with paint brushes. Remind children to try making the lines of the flag by walking along straight. While children are waiting, they can play with a sensory bin, do a coloring page or another activity.

4. Children then will paint their hands blue to make the star section of the flag with hand prints.
5. After the blue paint has dried and children are cleaned up, they can use star stickers or stamps to add stars.

With infants, this sensory activity is simple. It is easiest with one child and one adult or two children and one adult.

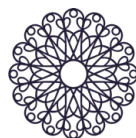
1. Unroll a large piece of butcher paper and tape it on the floor.
2. Use a paint brush to paint the bottoms of the child's feet and hold onto children as they walk along the paper. Alternatively, you can press infants' feet onto individual papers.
3. Clean up their feet. This activity is easy to break into 2 sessions. Repeat this process with their hands using blue paint.
4. Once the blue paint is dry, adults can add the stars later.

## ACTIVITY FIVE: MATH ACTIVITY

(Ages 2-4 years)

Use this [roll and sort](#) from Kinderpod. You can find this and other fun activities at [Teachers pay Teachers](#).

### >> THANKS TO OUR CREATORS:



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"It is with gratitude that we are able to work with other outstanding resources already available and I am truly happy to share those in this set of activities with you."

-Cary A. Thrall

