

Otto's Tales



Today is

FLAG DAY!

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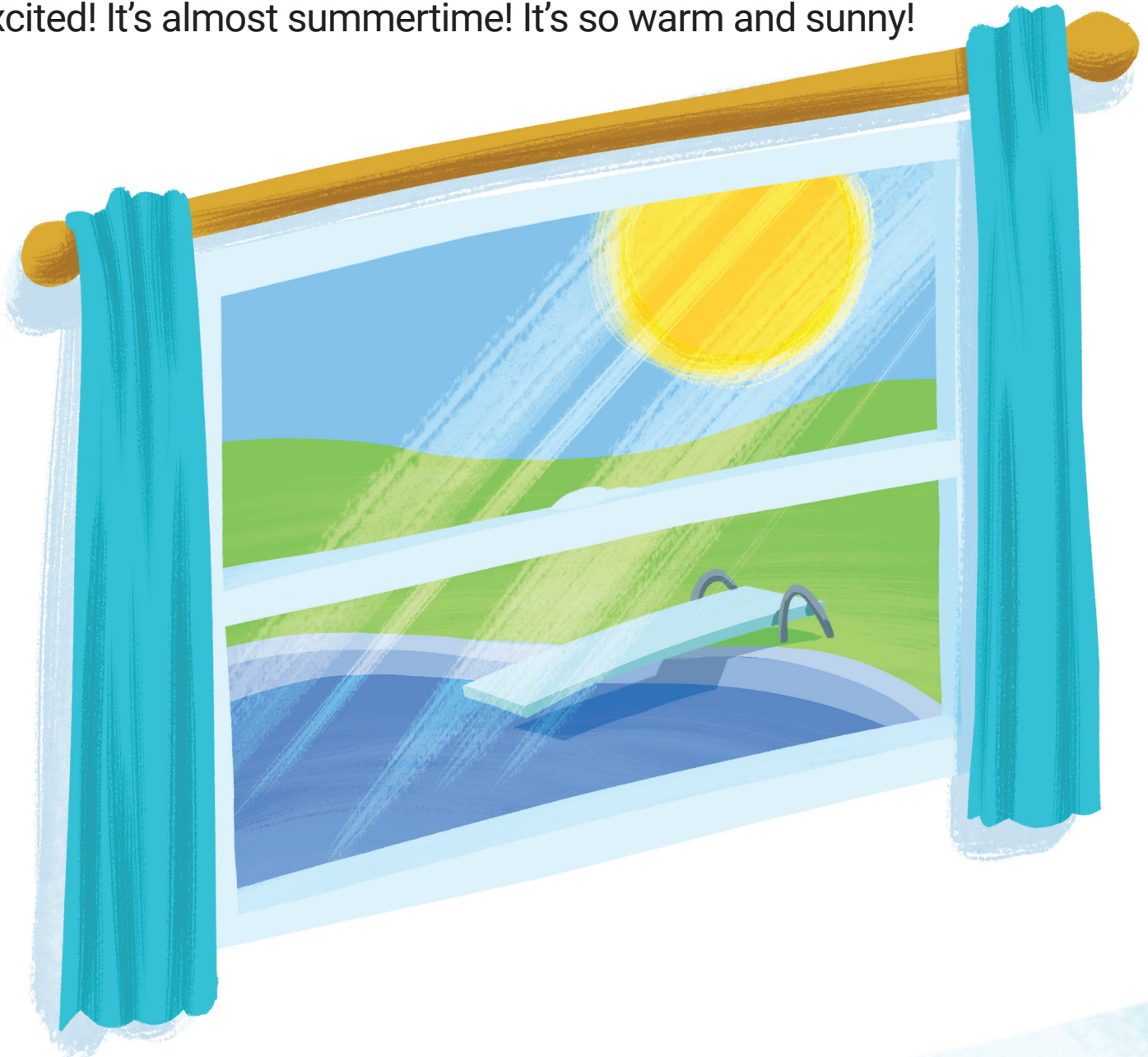
Otto's Tales

Today is
FLAG DAY!



Ruff Ruff!

I'm Otto. My best friend, Dennis, and I are so excited! It's almost summertime! It's so warm and sunny!



"It's a perfect time to go for a swim!" Dennis said.

"Yes," I barked, "we can have ice cream by the pool!"

"That sounds great," Dennis replied, "but it's also the perfect time to be grateful for our country. Do you know that **Flag Day** is coming up?"

“I do!” I shouted. “I love our country’s flag, especially the colors red, white, and blue. Why do you think those are the colors of our flag?”

“I don’t know!” answered Dennis. “Let’s find out why, and we can also learn about Flag Day!”

We jumped onto Dennis’s couch. I said, “This can be our time machine.”

“Good idea, Otto. Off we go!”



ZOOM... We traveled to Philadelphia in 1778.

Americans were fighting for an independent United States.

A lady waved to us from the street and walked across.

When she reached us, she said, "Hello, I'm **Betsy Ross!**"



I was so excited that my tail began to wag.

Dennis asked, "Aren't you the one who designed our nation's flag?"

She answered, "Some say that's a myth and it might not be true.

But I'd be happy to share the story of the first flag with you."





“In 1776,” said Betsy, “we declared ourselves a nation.
We needed a symbol to pass down to future generations.”



“One year later,” she continued, “**Congress** settled on a flag design.”
I barked, “It took them until 1777 to make up their minds!”

Betsy added, "The flag started with 13 stars on that date."

Dennis shouted, "That's because at the time, there were only 13 states!"





I barked, "The big, red stripes on the flag look so nice."
Betsy said, "Red symbolizes our nation's courage and sacrifice."

Dennis asked, "What's the rectangle in the corner and why is it blue?"

Betsy responded, "Blue represents justice for all, including me and YOU!"





I said, "You'll know why there are white stars and stripes, of that I am sure."

Betsy replied, "The color white reminds us always to be pure."

I barked, "Over time, our country grew at a very fast pace.
One day, that flag will have 50 stars on its face."





“50 stars on our nation's flag?!” Betsy exclaimed. Dennis responded, “Yes, but the red, white, and blue colors remain the same!”

I said, “Thank you, Betsy, we would really love to stay. But now we’re going to learn about the first Flag Day!”

We **ZOOMED** off to 1949 in Washington, D.C.

In the White House, we saw **Harry Truman**, President thirty-three.



He said, "Our nation's **Founding Fathers** had a great vision.
On June 14th of 1777, they reached an important decision."



I barked, "We met Betsy Ross, and she told us the whole story."

Dennis chimed in, "Congress selected a flag; we now call it **Old Glory**."

"Yes," said President Truman. "They chose a flag with the colors red, white, and blue.

To the flag's values, they hoped we'd always stay true."

I barked, "I love our flag and the values it represents."

"I couldn't agree more," smiled the President.





“To honor those values,” he continued, “and those who fought on the nation’s behalf,

I’m approving this new law, by signing my autograph.”

Dennis said, “Thanks to this law, June 14th will now be Flag Day.”

I barked, “On this day, across the country, the flag will be on display!”

The President replied, “Our flag is special with all that it stands for. Treat it with respect, and never let it touch the floor.”

I barked, “Seeing the flag on the White House is as good as it gets!”

Dennis replied, “Oh, Otto, you haven’t seen anything yet!”

We then **ZOOMED** to 1969 in a faraway place.

We were like astronauts flying through the vastness of space!



An illustration of two astronauts in white spacesuits with yellow helmets standing on the moon's surface. To their left is a small American flag on a wooden pole. To their right is a portion of a lunar lander, showing its orange base and blue upper section. The moon's surface is light blue and covered in numerous dark blue, oval-shaped craters. The background is a dark blue space filled with many small white stars. In the top right corner, a portion of the Earth is visible, showing green landmasses and blue oceans.

Dennis yelled, "Look, Otto, there's the flag planted on the moon!"
I barked, "Let's see who put it there by landing on that dune."

When we landed, we saw two astronauts walking nearby.

Their names were **Neil** and **Buzz**, and when they saw us, they said, “Hi!”

Dennis asked, “How did you two get to this faraway land?”

Neil responded, “Many people worked hard to make our trip well-planned.”

Buzz added, “For centuries, we’ve explored by traveling the seas.”

I barked, “With rockets, we can now travel through the galaxy!”







Neil explained, "We were in a race to be the first nation on the moon. We won that race by landing here just this afternoon."

Dennis said, "Seeing the flag planted here is a sight I'll always treasure." Buzz replied, "It reminds us what Americans can do when we work together."



I barked, "I'm so glad we went on this amazing ride. Being an American fills me up with so much pride."

But it was time to go, and with a great loud ***BOOM...*** our time machine flew us back to Dennis's room.



“That was my favorite adventure yet!” I barked.

“You say that every time, Otto.”

“Well, I loved learning about the American flag and Flag Day.”

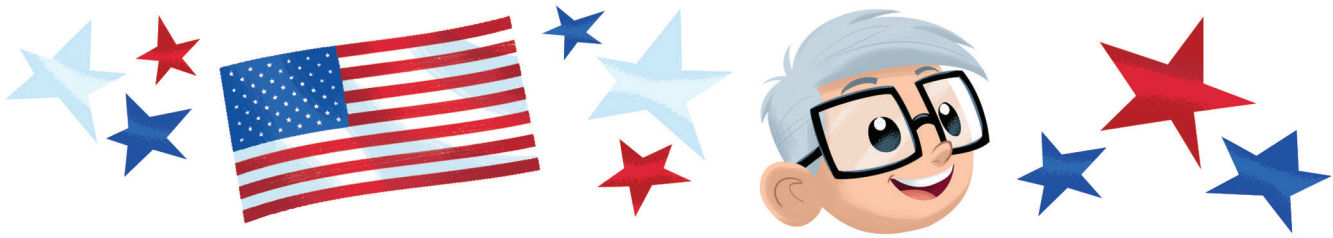
“Yes, our Founding Fathers left us a wonderful gift with the flag.”

“I’m glad we have a day to honor the flag and everything it means,” I said.

“Me too,” replied Dennis. “I will always be proud of our flag and our country. God Bless America and happy Flag Day!”

“Happy Flag Day! **Ruff Ruff!**”





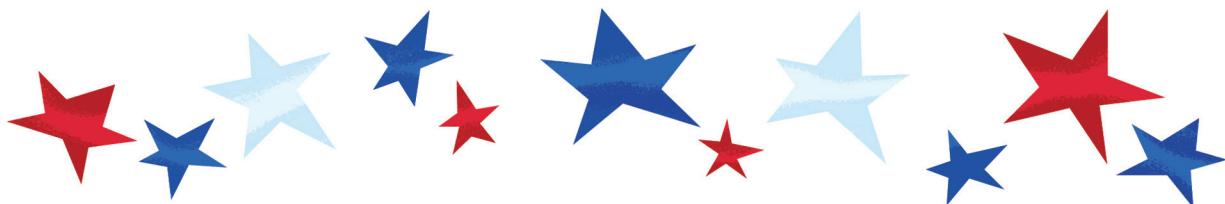
We Love Our History

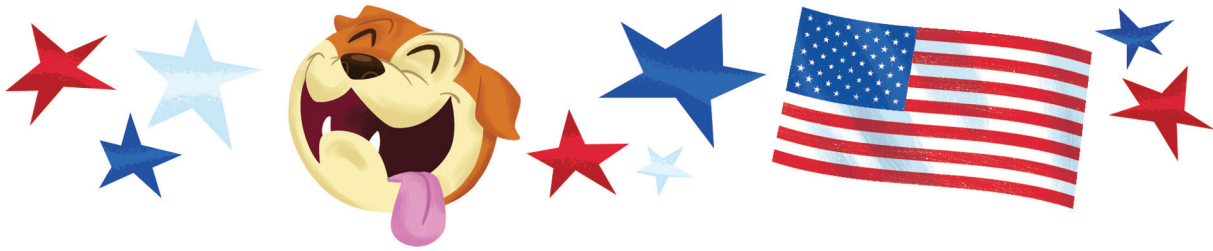
Flag Day: The day, taking place every year on June 14, that honors the flag of the United States. It commemorates when Congress approved the design for the flag on June 14, 1777.

Betsy Ross: A woman who lived in Philadelphia and worked as a seamstress during the American Revolution. Legend has it that she helped design the American flag. We do know that she made many American flags for the Continental Army.

Congress: The group of people in the United States who represent American citizens and make laws for the whole country. In 1949, it passed a law making every June 14 Flag Day in America.

Harry Truman: The 33rd President of the United States, from 1945-1953. He signed a law making every June 14 Flag Day in America.





Founding Fathers: The group of men who fought to make the United States independent and guided it through its earlier years as a nation. Some of them were serving in Congress when it approved the first American flag design on June 14, 1777.

Old Glory: The nickname for the flag of the United States. It originated with Captain William Driver, a sailor from Massachusetts in the 1800s who displayed the American flag on his ship for all to see. Driver named his flag “Old Glory” and others began using the nickname to refer to all American flags.

Neil Armstrong: An astronaut who, in 1969, commanded the Apollo 11 mission—the first to land on the moon. During the mission, he became the first man to walk on the moon.

Buzz Aldrin: An astronaut who, in 1969, joined Neil Armstrong on the Apollo 11 mission. During the mission, he became the second man to walk on the moon.



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**See you in
our *next* adventure!**

- Dennis, Otto,
and Smidge

ABOUT

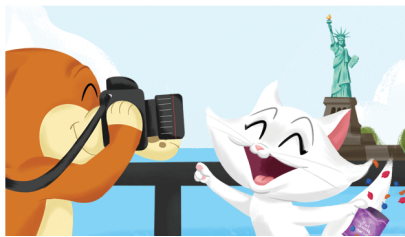
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TODAY IS
Celebrating American
holidays & traditions



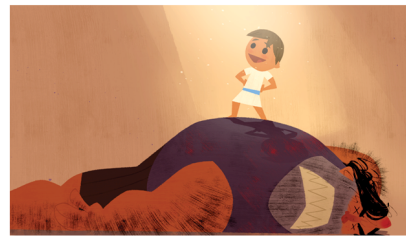
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