

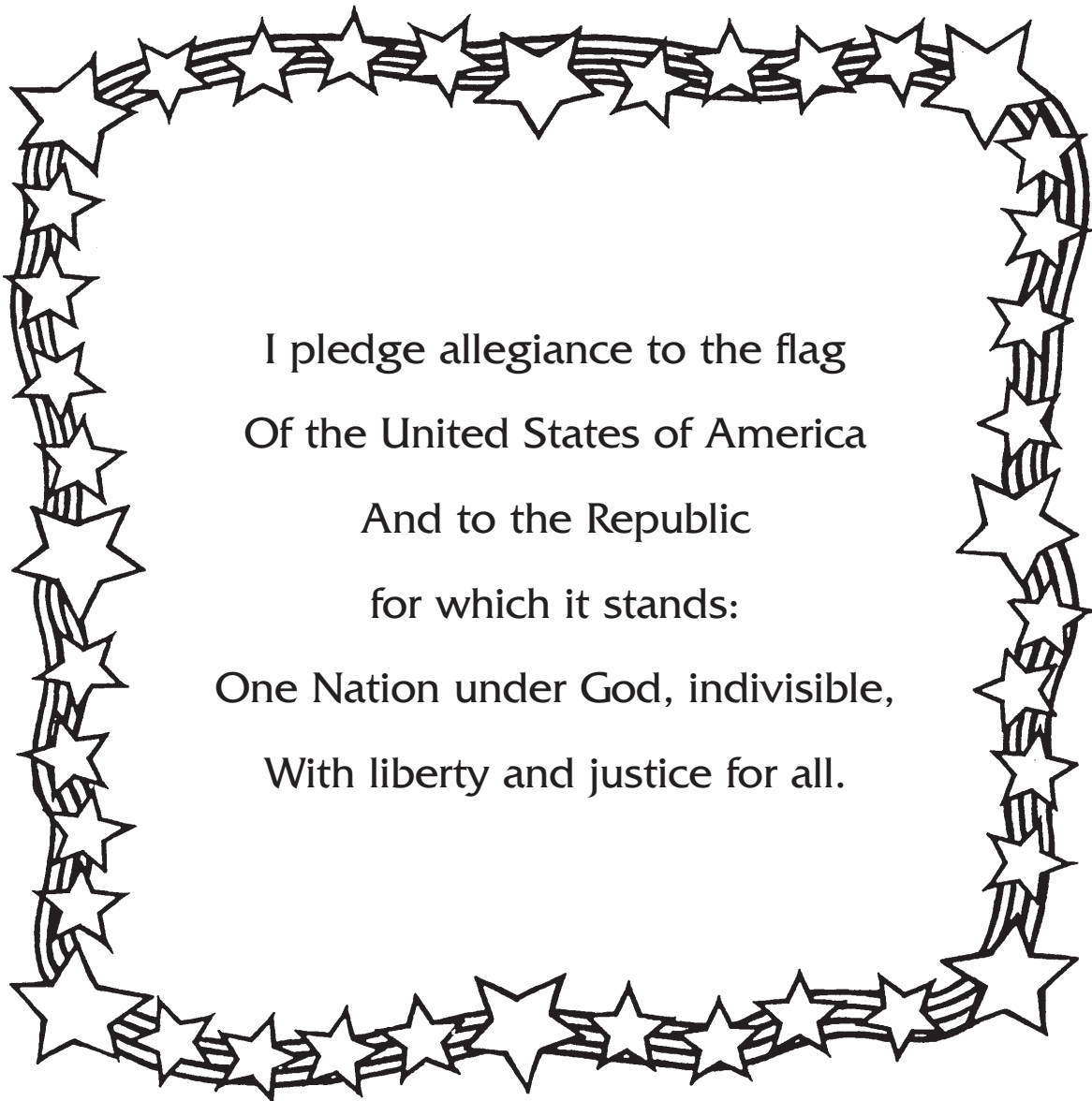
The Pledge of Allegiance



The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag symbolizes our loyalty to America. Francis Bellamy (1855-1931), a Baptist minister, wrote the original Pledge in August 1892. It was published in a children's magazine called *The Youth's Companion*. More than 12 million children first recited the Pledge on October 12, 1892, during school celebrations of Columbus Day.

The Pledge of Allegiance was officially recognized by the United States Congress in 1942.

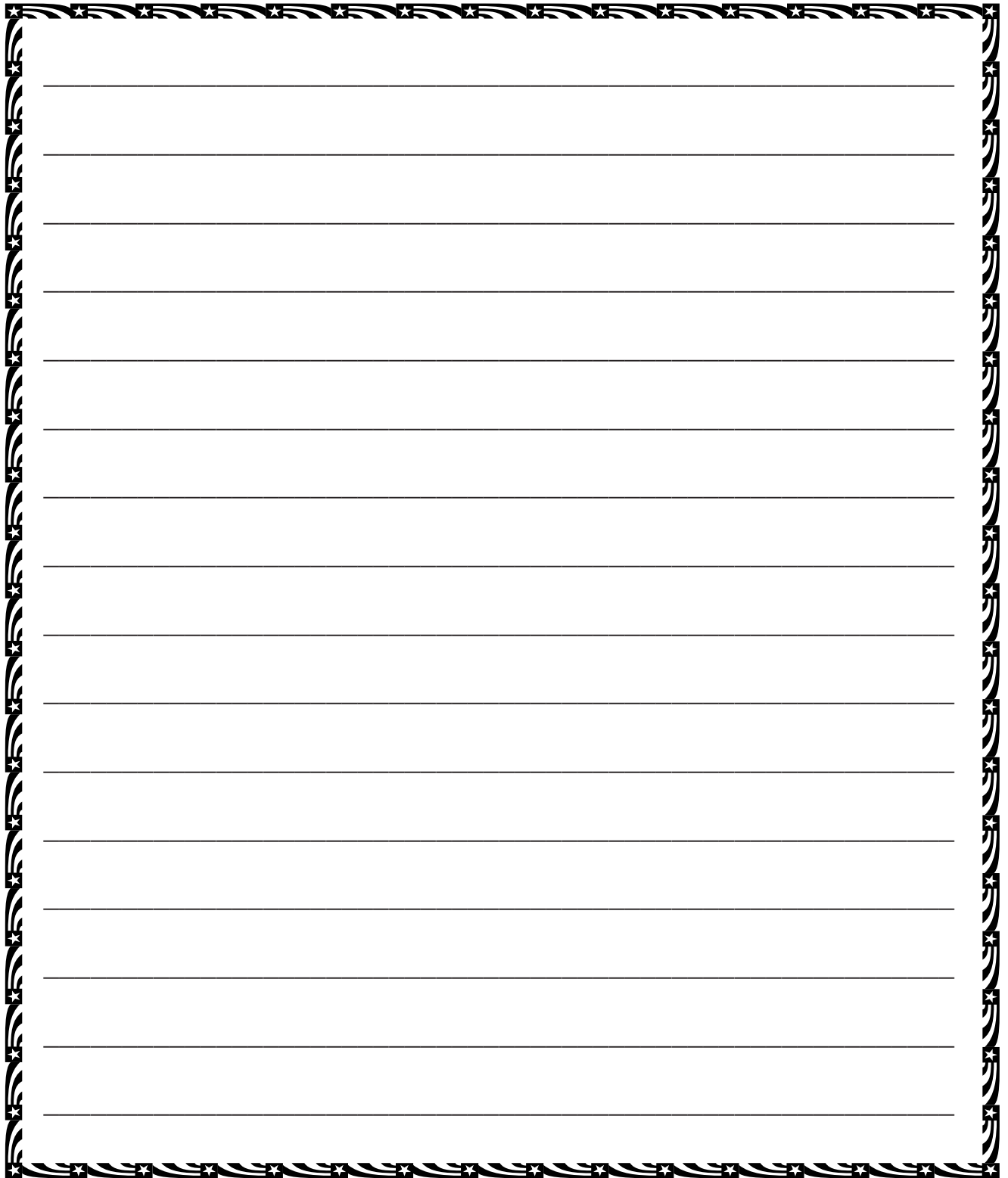
When people recite the Pledge, they usually put their right hands over their hearts. Men should remove their hats. People who work in the military give the military salute.



I pledge allegiance to the flag
Of the United States of America
And to the Republic
for which it stands:
One Nation under God, indivisible,
With liberty and justice for all.

Write Your Own Pledge

A pledge is a promise that you make to someone. In the space below, write your own pledge. It might be a promise to a parent, a sister or brother, or a friend. You might make a pledge to a favorite pet or to the land in which you live. Be creative and have fun!



A large rectangular writing area with a decorative border featuring stars and stripes. The interior is filled with horizontal lines for writing.