

Words of Promise

Read the pledge closely, then explain the ideas in its words.

5.16.C “recite and explain the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the phrases that describe unity, freedom, or fairness. Circle the sentence that tells the difference between reciting the pledge and explaining it.

A Promise to the Nation

- ① The Pledge of Allegiance is a promise people may recite while facing the United States flag. Its words name the United States as “one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” People often place a hand over the heart, but this is a respectful custom, not part of the words. The pledge is not a law requiring every person to speak.
- ② The pledge begins, “I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.” Allegiance means loyalty or support. The next words say that the flag stands for the republic, or government, of the United States. When a person recites the pledge, the person is expressing respect for the nation and its democratic government.
- ③ The final words describe hopes for the country. “One Nation under God” reflects a traditional phrase in the pledge. “Indivisible” means not divided. “Liberty” means freedom, and “justice for all” means fairness for every person. Reciting the pledge means saying its words from memory or reading them aloud. Explaining it means telling what its important ideas say.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What does *allegiance* mean in the pledge?

2 According to the passage, what does the flag stand for?

3 How can a person recite the Pledge of Allegiance?

4 What do the words “liberty and justice for all” mean?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Recite the Pledge of Allegiance aloud to a partner or teacher. Then write the pledge and add one sentence that explains its overall meaning.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the phrases that describe unity, freedom, or fairness. Circle the sentence that tells the difference between reciting the pledge and explaining it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What does <i>allegiance</i> mean in the pledge?	Allegiance means loyalty or support.
2	According to the passage, what does the flag stand for?	The flag stands for the republic, or government, of the United States.
3	How can a person recite the Pledge of Allegiance?	A person can say its words from memory or read them aloud.
4	What do the words "liberty and justice for all" mean?	Liberty means freedom, and justice for all means fairness for every person.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

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. It is a promise to support the United States and its government, which should remain united and provide freedom and fairness for all people.

Accept accurate explanations that connect the pledge to loyalty to the United States, unity, freedom, and fairness. For the written pledge, accept minor punctuation or capitalization errors if the words and order are correct.