



Chinese Flag Activities

Background and History of the Current Chinese Flag

The flag of China, formally People's Republic of China is a red field with five golden stars in the canton. The



design features one large star, with four smaller stars in a semicircle set off towards the fly (the side farthest from the flag pole).

The red is a very popular color in China, and the traditional color of communism, representing the communist revolution. The stars symbolize the Chinese people, united under the country's central leadership.

The larger star represents the Communist Party, and the four small stars are social classes of China. These classes are the working class, peasantry, the urban petit bourgeoisie, and the bourgeoisie.

The flag is named "Wǔ Xīng Hóng Qí," meaning "Five-star Red Flag."

Written: 五星旗 in simple Chinese; 五星紅旗 in traditional Chinese; and: *wǔ xīng hóng qí* in Pinyin



The other potential meaning for the stars is to represent the five main ethnicities of China: the Han, Manchus, Mongols, Hui, and Tibetans.

In addition, the five stars together reflect the importance placed on the number five in Chinese thought and history.

The flag of China was officially adopted on October 1, 1949.

On July 4, 1949, a committee of the government of China solicited designs for the national flag from the public.

Around 3,000 designs were submitted, which were further narrowed down to 38 that went to a committee discussion.

One design, submitted by Zeng Liansong of Shanghai, was similar to the current flag. He designed it after reflecting on a Chinese proverb that said "longing for the stars, longing for the moon." Liansong incorporated the

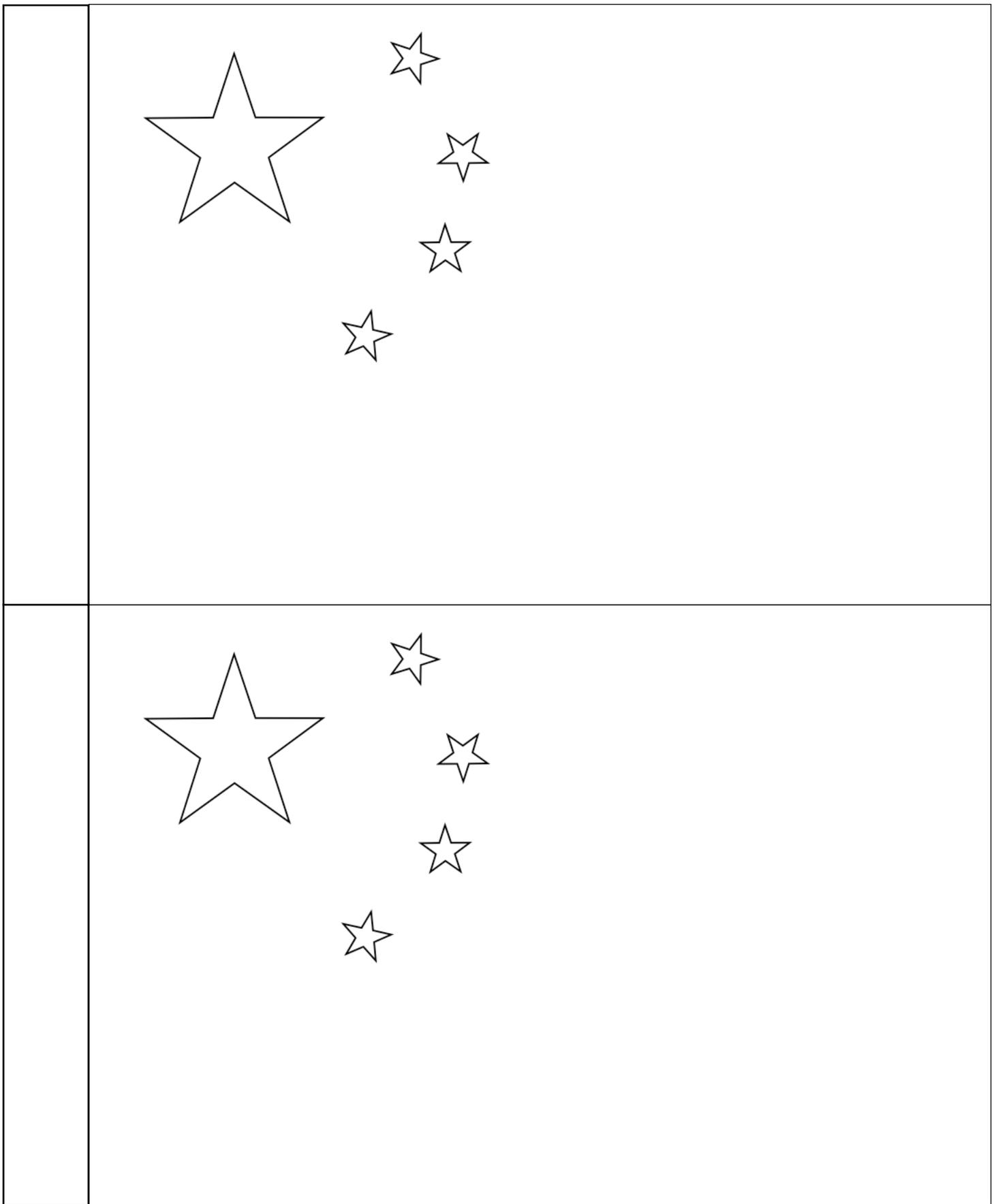
communist party into the flag's design in the large star.

The design of his flag was modified slightly; the committee removed the hammer and sickle in the large star, due mainly to the fact that it looked too much like the Soviet Union. The committee officially selected the flag on September 27, 1949 in a unanimous vote.

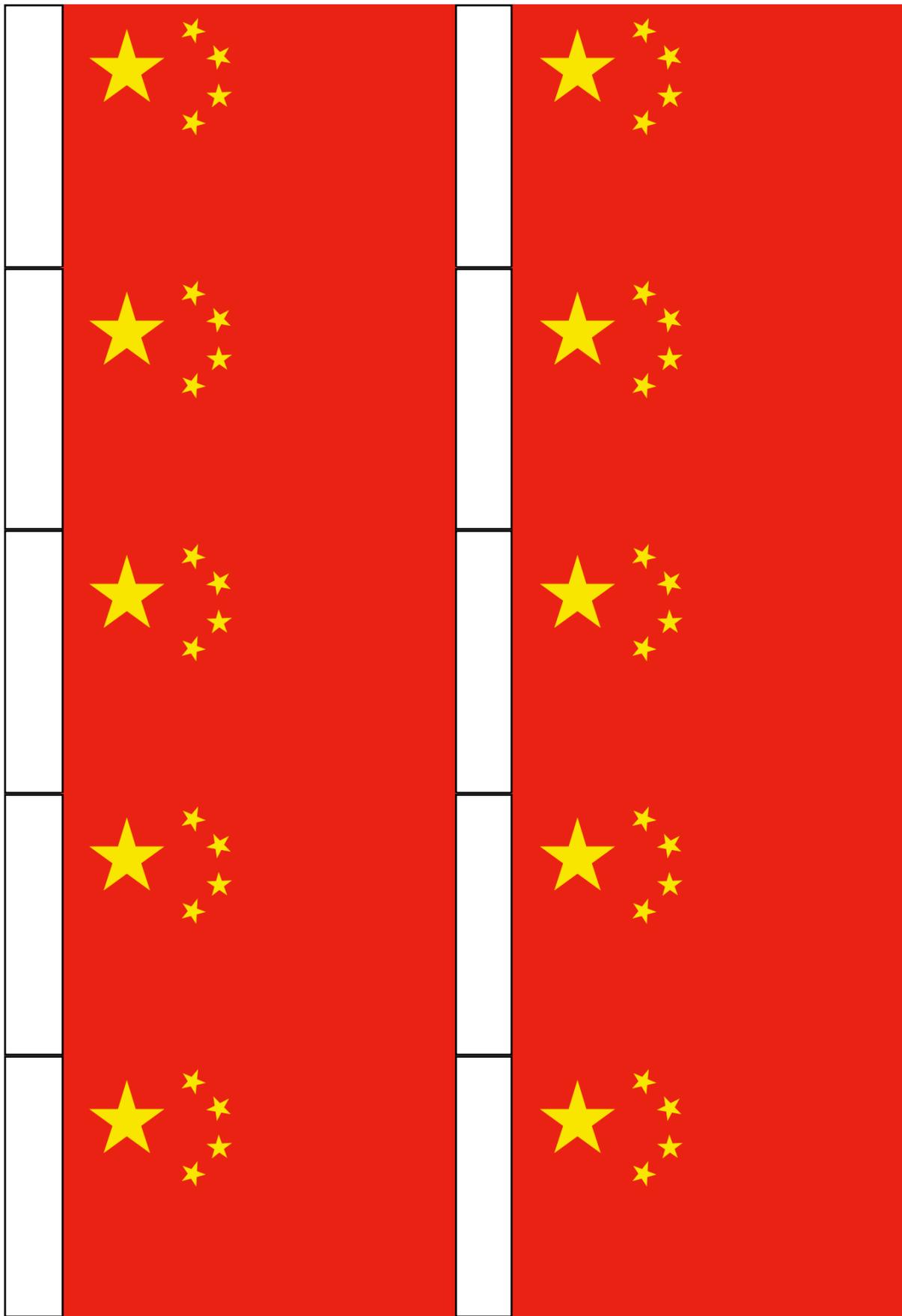
The first flag was hoisted by the People's Liberation Army (PLA), which flew from a pole that overlooked Beijing's Tiananmen Square on October 1, 1949, at a ceremony announcing the founding of the People's Republic.

For more specific background on Zeng Liansong check out this website: <http://www.cbw.com/btm/issue71/62-63.html>

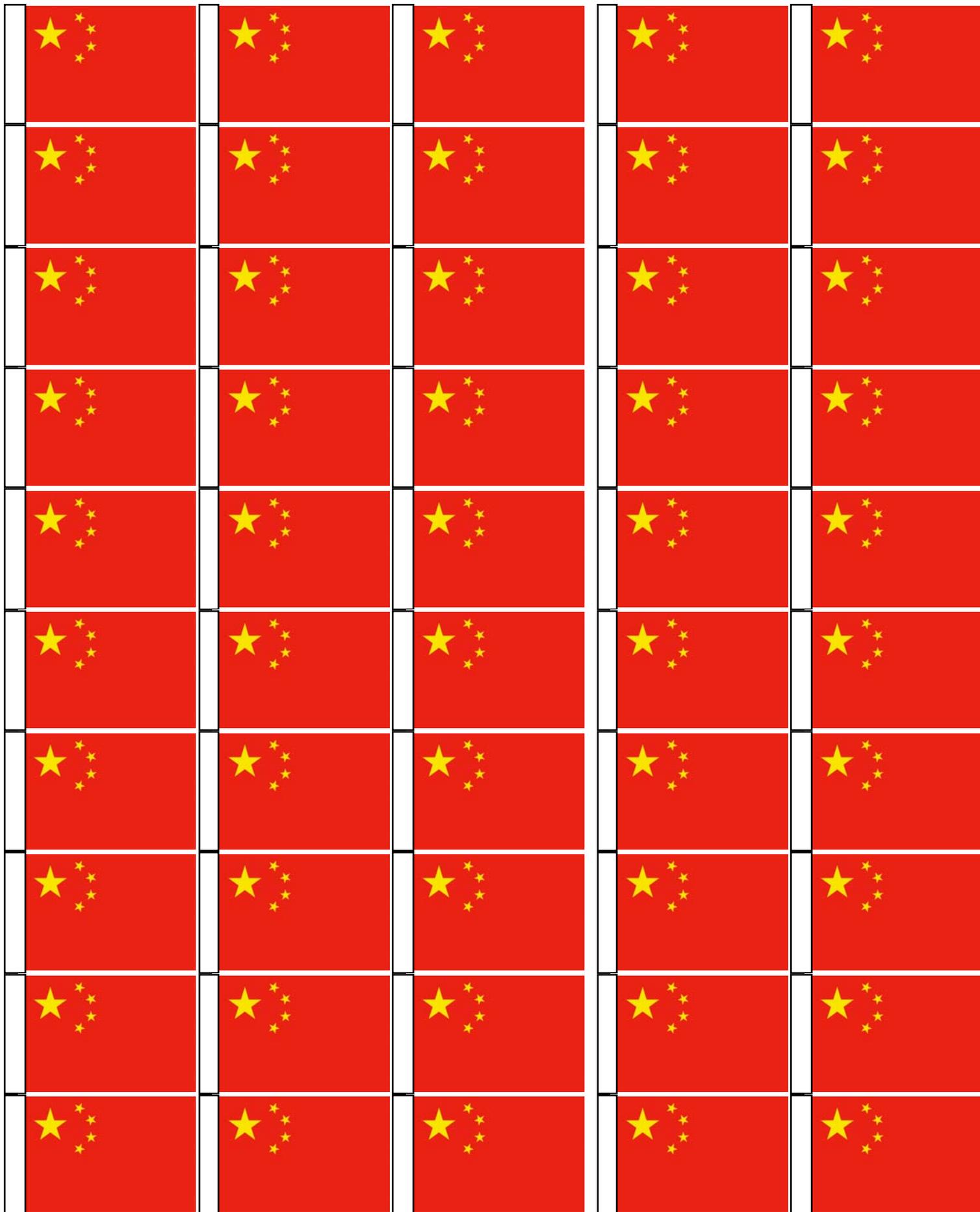
You can learn how much Zeng was paid for having the winning design. Then see how much money that is in US dollars.



Run off on white construction paper if you want your students to color the flag, or on red construction paper if you want them to simply add gold stars. Fold the rectangular box on the left over; rub with a glue stick and place a chopstick on the flag portion, fold over to keep it in place.

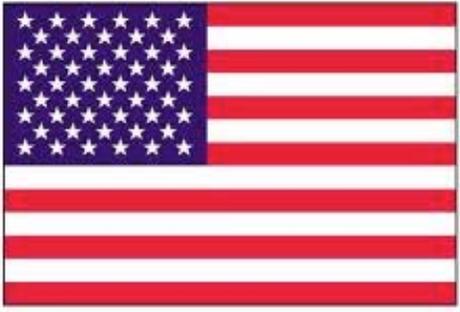


Print; trim and wrap the white portion around a pencil. Use as an incentive or prize.
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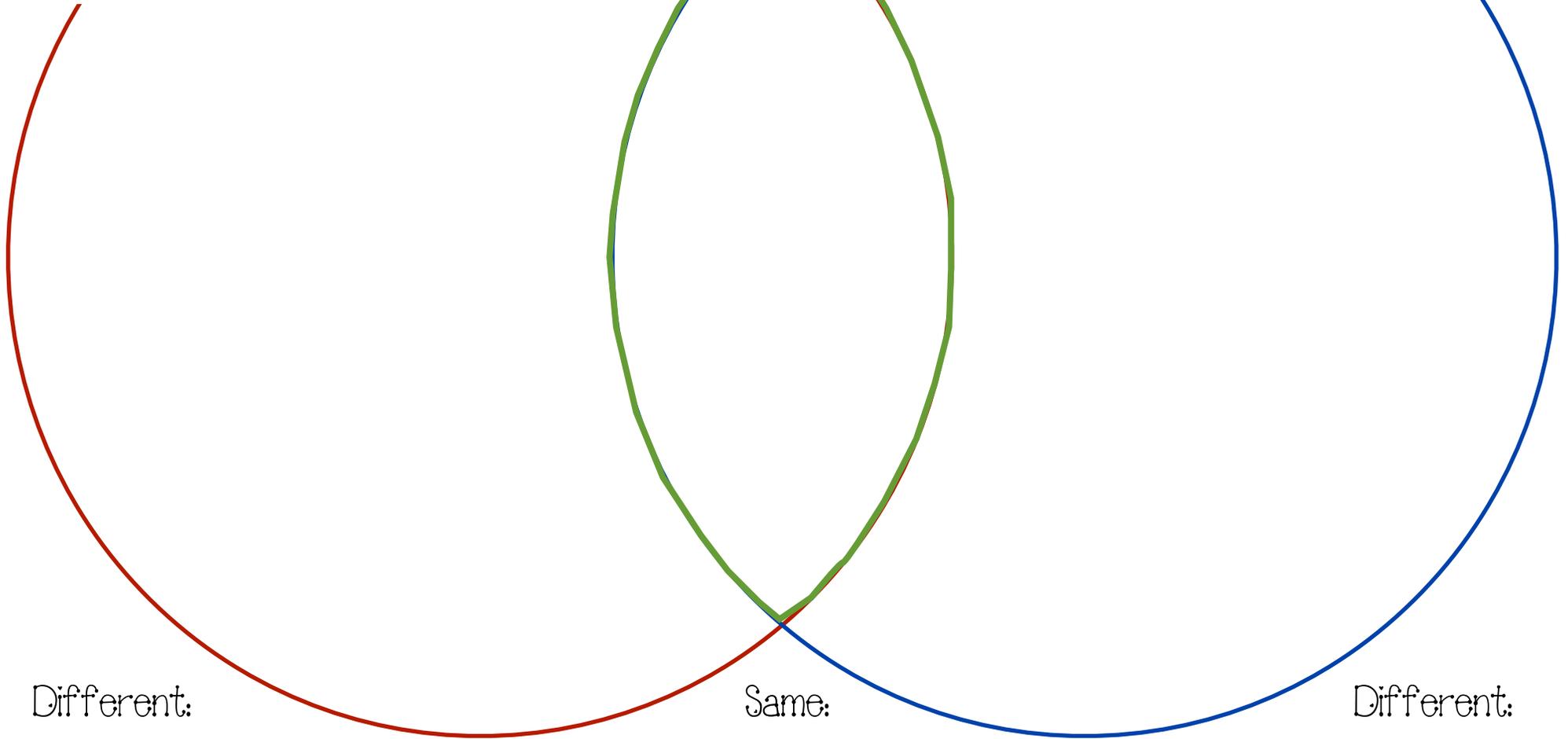
Print; trim and have students fold over on a piece of yarn and then sting on beads and cut up straw pieces to make a necklace, or attach to a toothpick to use for a craft, or topper for cupcakes etc.

Comparing and Contrasting Two Flags



The US Flag

The Chinese Flag



Different:

Same:

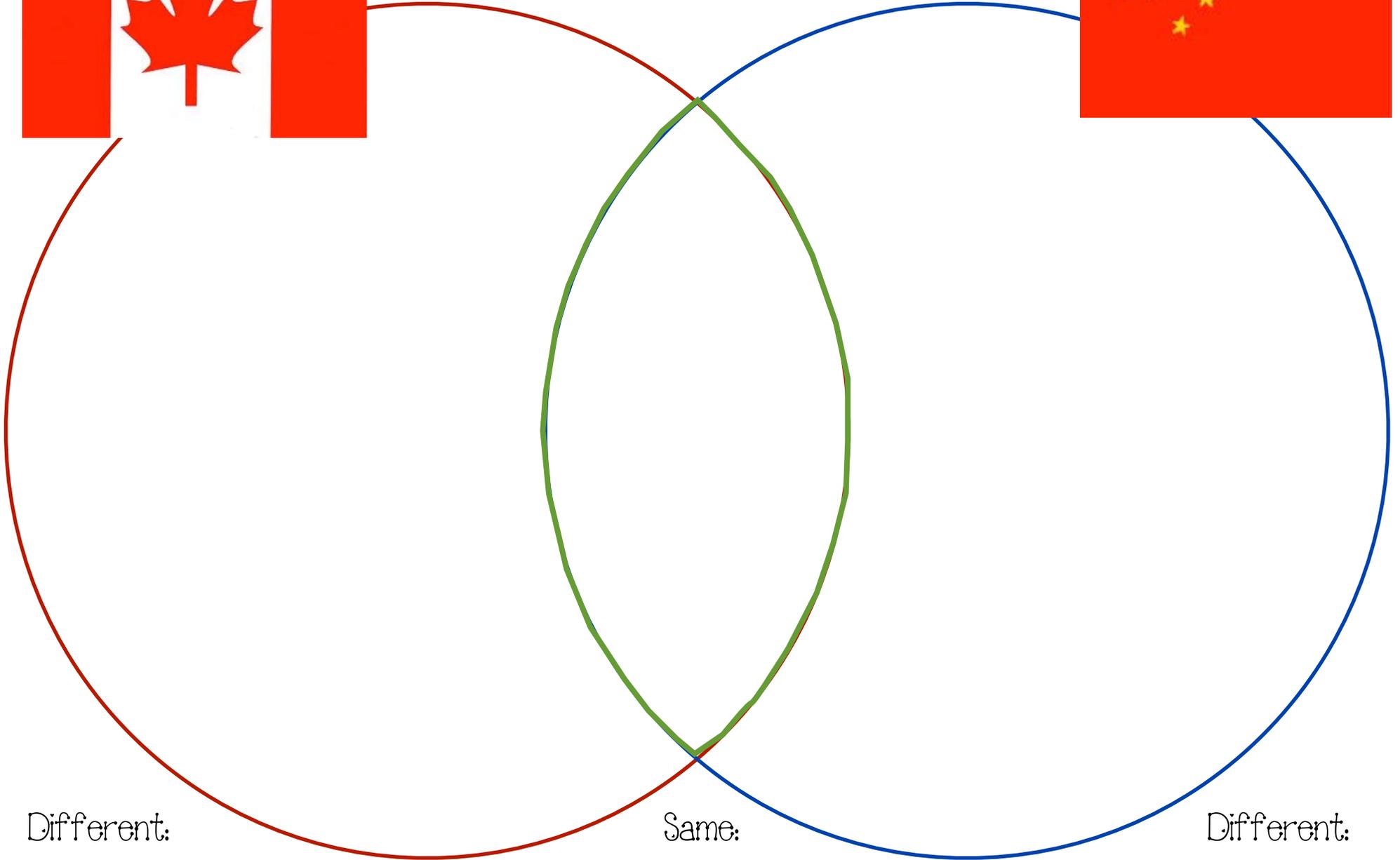
Different:

Comparing and Contrasting Two Flags



The Canadian Flag

The Chinese Flag



Different:

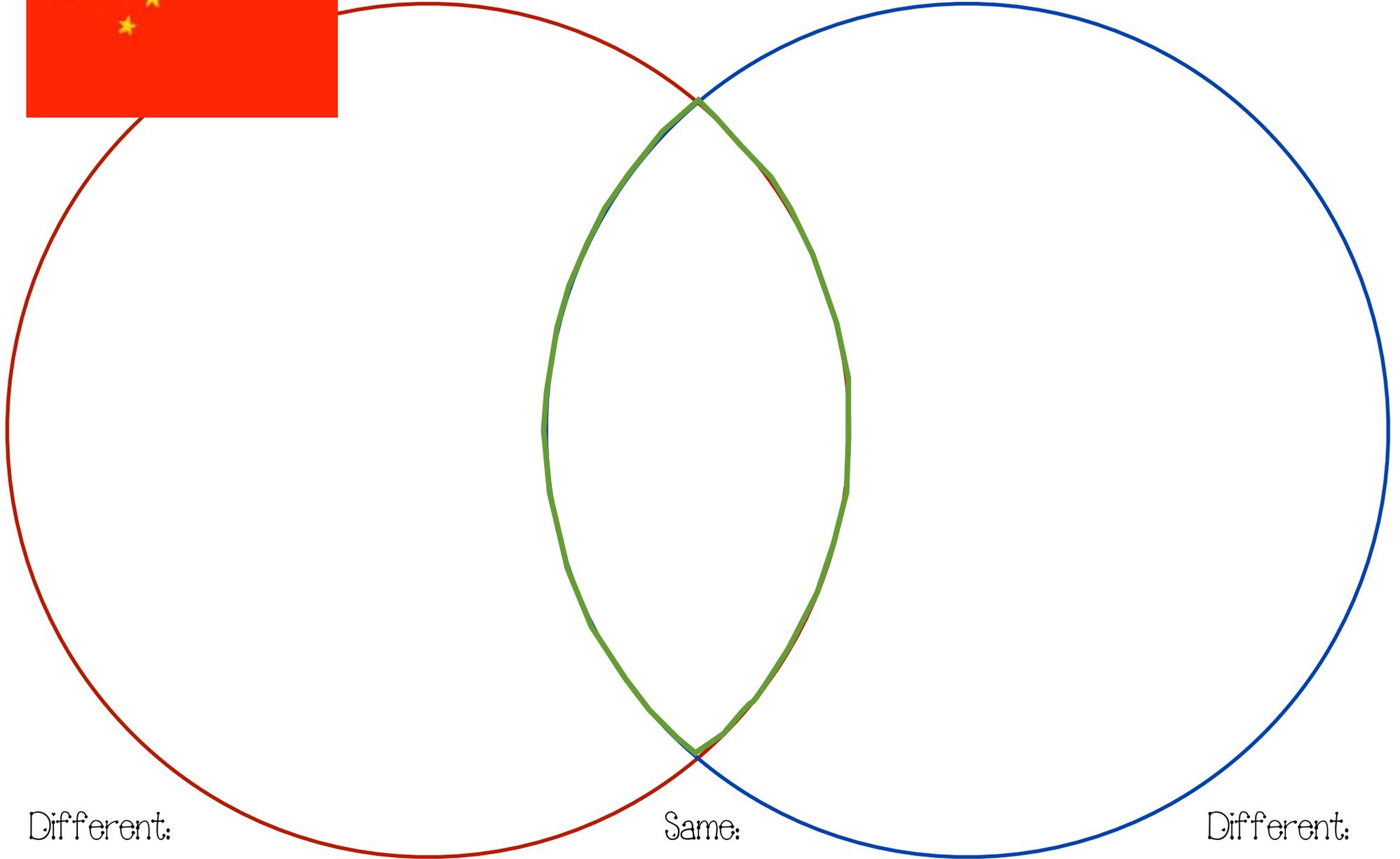
Same:

Different:

Comparing and Contrasting Two Flags



The Chinese Flag



Different:

Same:

Different: