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Geographical elements in country flags

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**Abstract**

Flags which are regarded as the symbols of countries have various colors and symbols. Each color, symbol, coat of arms and emblem used in flags has a specific meaning. When the meanings of country flags are examined, it has been identified that geographical elements are included in the flags of 86% of the world countries. Natural or human elements common or distinct in the country's geographical environment are incorporated in the flags. It is identified that natural elements are emphasized in 45% of the flags whereas human elements are emphasized in 65%. Some of these elements are oceans, seas, rivers, lakes, sun, soil, mountains, islands, beaches, snow, ice, mines, flora, animals, agriculture, religion, ethnic structure and management style. Current study examines the meanings of geographical elements in country flags and the reasons behind their selections.

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**1. Introduction**

Flags that are regarded as the symbols of countries incorporate many colors, symbols, coats of arms and emblems. Each color, symbol, coat of arms and emblem used in flags has a specific meaning. Nations present their social and cultural values (such as Patriotism, Solidarity, Honesty, Altruism, Humanism, Optimism, Tolerance, Harmony, Dignity, Fervor, Loyalty, Heroism, Wisdom, Generosity, Nobility, Virtuousness, Purity, Fidelity, Friendliness, Honorableness, Modesty, Tenacity, Selflessness, Endurance, Faithfulness, Joyfulness) by using colors

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and symbols in their flags. Targets of the country (such as Peace, Serenity, Unity, Brotherhood, Equality, Neutrality, Labor, Vigilance, Entrepreneurship, Determination, Progression, Power, Welfare and Prosperity) are also represented in the flags. The most common theme in the flags of the world is independence and the blood that has been shed in the struggle for independence. This theme is represented by the color red in flags of 73 independent countries (30% of the countries).

Mass media frequently gives us the opportunity to come across flags of different countries. Almost all political, military, social and sports events or organizations include flags. Meanings of the colors and symbols used in the flags are worth investigating by many disciplines (History, Sociology, Religion etc) in science. Flags are an important source of data worth researching for the geographers as well.

Through related resources (Anonymous 1, 2, 3), the current study compiles the meanings of a total of 248 country flags: 196 independent and 52 dependent countries (overseas countries and territories, colonies and affiliated land). Countries represent physical and human geography elements important for them in their flags. Many flags include one or both of these elements. 213 country flags (86% of flags) include elements of geographical characteristics. No scientific research has been found in literature regarding what geographical elements are emphasized in country flags. Current study investigates the meanings of geographical elements in country flags and why they are used.

## **2. Geographical investigation of flags that include natural elements**

Almost half of all country flags include natural elements. 112 of 248 flags (45%) have one or more natural elements (geographical location, sky and celestial bodies, geomorphologic, climatologic, paedologic, hydrographic and bio-geographic elements).

### *2.1. Geographical location*

Geographical locations of countries are represented in their flags through the use of colors and symbols. Color yellow in the flag of Gabon, a West African country, represents the equator passing through the country soil. The yellow line in the flag of Nauru, situated 55 km south of equator in South Pacific, represents the equator whereas the star located under the yellow line shows that the country soil is located in the south of the equator. Color black in the flags of Angola and Mozambique points to the fact that these two countries are located in the African continent. The fortress in Gibraltar flag represents Gibraltar and the key emphasizes the strategic position of the country in the Mediterranean.

### *2.2. Sky and celestial bodies*

Some flags include the sky, sun or stars through the use of various colors and symbols. Color blue is used in the flags of 25 countries to represent the sky. Various colors (yellow, red or orange) or symbols are used in the flags of 22 countries to emphasize the sun (Table 1). Since the sun is regarded as the source of life and the sky can be observed throughout life, they are utilized in the flags of many countries. The stars in the flags of Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Samoa represent Southern Constellations and portray the stars that can be observed in the sky at nights in those countries.

### *2.3. Geomorphologic elements*

Geomorphologic elements of the country are displayed in some flags. The most common geomorphologic elements in flags are mountains, volcanoes, coral islands (atolls) and beaches. Light blue colors in the flag of Argentina is used to represent And Mountains located in the west of the country whose peaks define the borders with the neighboring Chile. Color white in the flag of Chile emphasizes the snowy peaks in the And Mountains which cover the east of the country (Doherty et al., 2011:280). The triangles in the flag of Nepal are used to represent the Himalaya Mountains which consist of more than half of the Nepal soil, a mountainous land (Atalay, 2001:292). Color green in the flag of Oman is the symbol of Al Hajar Mountains known with its strong flora and important water resources compared to elsewhere in the country where water shortage is extremely high. Color red

in the flag of Iceland reflects the volcanoes that are still active in the island. The black-white triangle in the flag of Saint Lucia Island, one of the Caribbean Islands, is used to represent the volcano cones.

Table 1. Colors, symbols and their meanings in the flags in which the sky and sun is emphasized

Country	Colors, Symbols and Their Meaning
Argentina, Armenia, Barbados, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Democratic Republic of The Congo, Costa Rica, Djibouti, Ecuador, Estonia, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Namibia, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Seychelles, Somalia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Aruba, Curacao, Puerto Rico	Color blue represents the sky
Cameroon, Chad, Dominica, Gabon, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Jamaica, Lithuania, Namibia, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Uganda, Curacao, Saint Lucia, Kazakhstan	Color yellow represents the sun
Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago	Color red represents the sun
Niger	Orange circle represents the sun
Bangladesh, Japan	Red circle represents the sun
Marshall Islands	Color Orange represents sunrise

Table 2. Colors, symbols and their meanings in the flags in which the sea, ocean and rivers are emphasized

Country	Colors, Symbols and Their Meaning
Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cape Verde, Colombia, Djibouti, Ecuador, Eritrea, Estonia, Gabon, Saint Lucia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Curacao, French Polynesia, Guam	Color blue represents the sea
Cayman Islands	Color blue and white waves represent the sea
Slovenia	2 wavy blue lines represent the sea
Equatorial Guinea	Color blue represents the sea that provides connection with mainland
Trinidad and Tobago	Color white represents the sea that surrounds the islands
Palau, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Tokelau	Color blue represents the ocean
Fiji, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Northern Mariana Islands	Color blue represents the Pacific Ocean
Kiribati	Bands of white and blue colors represent the Pacific Ocean
Aruba	Color blue represents the Caribbean Sea
El Salvador, Nicaragua	Color blue represents the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea
Guatemala, Honduras	Bands of blue represent the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea
Mauritius, Somalia, Tanzania	Color blue represents the Indian Ocean
British Indian Ocean Territory	Wavy bands represent the Indian Ocean
Iceland, Namibia	Color blue represents the Atlantic Ocean
Dominica, Guyana	Color white represents the rivers
Ecuador, Gambia, Slovenia, Tanzania	Color blue represents the rivers
Laos	Color blue represents the Mekong river
Niger	Color green represents River Niger
South Sudan	Color blue represents the River Nile

In the flags of two island countries, there are elements that represent atolls which are circular or elliptical reefs in the middle of the ocean (Hoşgören, 1998:57). 9 stars on blue backdrop in the flag of Tuvalu represent the 9 atolls of the country and 6 wavy bands in the flag of British Indian Ocean Territory Island represent the country's

archipelago made up of 6 main atolls. The emblem in the flag of Guam in Pacific includes a beach. Color white in the flags of Antigua and Barbuda Islands, yellow bands in the flags of Bahamas, Barbados and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the color white in the star in the Aruba flag represent the beaches.

#### 2.4. *Climatologic and paedologic elements*

Some of the country flags include climatologic or pedologic elements of the country. The symbol of moon in the flag of Nepal represents the cool and cloudy weather in the Himalayas whereas the symbol of sun reflects the warm areas in the lower parts of the country. Color white in the flag of Iceland which has land in Arctic Region represents the ice and the snow and the symbol of the circle in the flag of Greenland emphasizes the sun which is reflected from the ice covered ground. Color white in the flags of Argentina, Chile, Estonia, Finland, Lebanon and Tajikistan represents the snow cover in the mountainous parts of these countries or the snow piles that covers those countries in the winter. Color orange in the flag of Armenia, the angular triangle in the Bahamas flag and the color red in the star of Aruba flag represent the soil, color green in Bangladesh flag represents the fertile soil in the country and color black in the flag of Dominica represents the productiveness of the soil.

#### 2.5. *Hydrographic elements*

Various hydrographic elements (oceans, seas, rivers, lakes, waterfalls and springs) are observed in country flags represented by different colors and symbols. A color or a symbol is used in the flags of 41 countries to represent the ocean or the sea (Table 2). 25 of these countries are island countries and they have felt the need to emphasize in their flags the ocean which is one of the important resources for them and undoubtedly one of the most crucial natural elements in these islands. 12 of these islands are situated in the Pacific Ocean, 8 are in Caribbean, 3 are in the Indian Ocean and 2 are in the Atlantic Ocean. 8 countries in Africa, 4 countries in Central America and 2 countries each in South America and Europe that have coastlines to either the ocean or to the sea have ocean or the sea emphasized in their flags.

9 countries have emphasized rivers in their flags with the use of colors (Table 2). Since human activities and population have centered on rivers in Gambia, Laos, Niger and South Sudan from past to present, these countries have felt the need to represent the rivers in their flags. Color blue in the flags of Estonia, Finland and Tanzania represents the lakes. Finland, a *country* of thousands of *lakes* (Atalay, 2007; Özey, 2010) and Tanzania with an abundance of lakes in the Lakes Region in the African Continent have lakes in their flags. Color white in the Dominican flag represents the waterfalls, the most common hydrographic elements in the country. Color blue represents the water springs in the flags of Namibia, Kazakhstan and Chad where arid land covers vast areas. Color blue in the flag of Chad surrounded in the north by the Sahara Desert emphasizes the savannah and agricultural areas in the south that are comparatively rich in water resources.

#### 2.6. *Bio-geographic elements*

Flora and zoo-geographical characteristics of countries are represented in some flags with the help of colors and symbols. Color green is used in some flags to emphasize the natural flora of the country (Dominica, Grenada, Guinea, Jamaica, Mauritius, Montenegro, Namibia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sao Tome and Principe, Tanzania, Zambia and Norfolk Island) and the widespread forest areas (Belarus, Brazil, Republic of The Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guyana, Lithuania, Nigeria). Forest areas are stressed in the flags of Brazil and the Republic of the Congo where rainforests are widespread (Tümertekin and Özgüç, 1997). Canadian flag has the maple leaf which is regarded as the symbol of the country. Color white in Estonian flag symbolizes the bark of the birch tree, the most common tree type in the country (Anonymous 4), the symbol of the tree in the flag of Equatorial Guinea represents the common bombax tree, the tree symbol in the flag of Belize represents the mahogany tree and emblems of trees in the flags of some island countries (Dominican Republic, Fiji, Haiti, British Indian Ocean Territory and Guam) represent the widespread palm tree in those countries. The tree emblem in the flag of Peru represents the *cinchona tree*, the national tree of Peru and the source of quinine discovered by Incas, the natives of Peru. Tree emblem in Lebanese flag represents the cedar tree, the symbol of the country. Color red in Nepal flag

represents the national plant of Nepal, the rhododendron plant commonly seen in forest areas of the country and the plant symbol in the flag of Mexico represents the cactus plant widely observed in the arid areas of the country.

Natural elements such as forest, savannah and desert are emphasized in the flags of some African countries. Color green in the flags of Cameroon and Cote D'Ivoire symbolizes the forest areas in the south of these countries. Color green in Cameroon flag and color orange in Cote D'Ivoire flag represent the savannah in the north. Color red in the flag of Gambia symbolizes the savannah in the country. The orange band in the Nigerian flag symbolizes the arid areas in Sahara in the north of the country; color yellow in the Mauritanian flag represents the sands of the Sahara and the color yellow in the flag of Chad symbolizes the desert in the north of the country.

Coats of arms or symbols related to animals are also seen in the flags of some countries. The most commonly observed animal figures are eagles (Albania, Egypt, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Zambia) and lions (Montenegro, Sri Lanka, Cayman Islands, Jersey, Saint Pierre and Miquelon). Kazakhstan where steppes are common has steppe eagle in its flag, represented in yellow. Mexico which includes deserts in its borders has an eagle figurine perched on a cactus in its national flag. Flag of Papua New Guinea depicts *strelitzia reginea*, the bird of paradise; flag of Dominica depicts a native parrot and the flag of Uganda depicts the *red-crested crane*, the symbol of the country that lives in the arid savannah in the south of the Sahara Desert. *The coat-of-arms in the flag of Anguilla Island in the Caribbean; where tourists swim alongside dolphins (Anonymous 5), depicts three dolphins. The flag of Cayman Islands where turtle farms are visited by hundreds of thousands of tourists ever year depicts the figurine of a turtle. The emblem in the flag of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands depicts penguin, seal and reindeer figurines. Coasts of these islands provide opportunities for the tourists who enjoy seal and bird watching.*

### 3. Geographical investigation of flags that include human elements

2/3 of the country flags include human elements. 162 of 248 flags (65%) depict one or more of the human elements that the countries possess (Settlement geography, economic geography, cultural geography and political geography).

#### 3.1. Settlement geography

Some country flags include elements related to settlement geography. The number of stars in the flags of some countries (Cape Verde, Comoros, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Cayman Islands, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Equatorial Guinea, and Saint Kitts and Nevis) shows the number of islands. The stars in the flag of Curacao, the Y shape in the Vanuatu flag, two lily leaves in the Macau flag and the beams in the Kiribati flag represent the islands of those countries. Number of stars in some country flags (Dominica, Grenada) depicts the number of administrative regions in the countries. Stars in the flag of Philippines represent the three main geographical regions of the country (Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao), visuals in the coat-of-arms in Croatian flag depict the five historical regions of the country (Croatia, Dubrovnik, Dalmatia, Istria and Slavonia), colors in the Libyan flag represent the three main regions of the country, 5 stars in the Turkmenistan flag represent the regions of the country, 5 horizontal bands in the flag of Togo depict the five different regions of the country and 13 bands in the flag of United States of America depict the 13 pioneer colonies in the east.

#### 3.2. Economic geography

Some country flags depict elements related to economic geography such as agriculture, animal husbandry, industry, maritime and mining. Color green in some country flags (Afghanistan, Bolivia, Eritrea, Republic of The Congo, Gambia, Grenada, Jamaica, Mauritius, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Togo and Zimbabwe), color black in the flag of Dominica and the symbol of anchor in Mozambique flag represent agriculture. Color green in the Nigerian flag depicts the fertile land around the River Niger. Color yellow in the flag of Ukraine depicts the widespread fields of wheat in the country whereas the color yellow in the flag of Ecuador and the sun rays in the flag of Kazakhstan represent wheat growing. Fiji flag depicts sugar cane, a product of the Torrid Zone. Color white in Tajikistan flag

symbolizes the cotton, the second widespread product after the wheat and color yellow in the flag of Sao Tome and Principe depicts the cacao, one of the main agricultural products of the country.

The white ram in the coat-of-arms in the flag of Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) depicts ovine farming activities in the island, the most common means of livelihood for the islanders. Symbols are used in the flags of 3 island countries in the Pacific and Atlas Oceans (Saint Pierre and Miquelon Island, Tokelau, and Guam) to depict maritime activities.

Color green is used in the flags of some African countries (Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Zambia) to emphasize the rich natural resources of the country. Color green in the flags of some African (Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Ghana, Mozambique, Rwanda, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo and Zimbabwe) and South American (Bolivia, Brazil, Guyana) countries depicts the mineral deposits and the abundance of mines. Color black in the flag of oil rich United Arab Emirates emphasizes the oil fields.

### 3.3. Cultural geography

Some country flags have elements that depict the religious, racial and ethnic structure of the people. Tenets of Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism and Judaism are represented in flags through the use of various colors and symbols. Flags of 22 countries where the majority of people are Muslims depict Islam. These countries are situated in the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia (Table 3). Color green, crescent and the star and the crescent shaped moon represent Islam. 5-tipped white bands in the flag of Bahrain and the 5-angled star in the Moroccan flag represent the five pillars of Islam. Takbir (Allahu Akbar-God is Great) script in the Iraqi flag and Kalimat ash-Shahadah (is Islamic creed which declares belief in the oneness of God and acceptance of Muhammad as God's prophet) scripted in Saudi Arabian flag symbolize Islam. 7-angled star in the flag of Jordan represents the 7 verses of the Surah Fatiha; the first surah of the Holy Koran and therefore the flag depicts the belief of Islam.

Flags of 30 countries whose population is predominantly Christian depict Christianity. These countries are situated in Europe, Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean (Table 3). The diagonal cross in the flag of Jamaica, the crosses in the emblems of Moldova, Montenegro and Serbia flags, the star in the flag of Marshall Islands and stars aligned in the shape of a cross in New Zealand flag represent Christianity. The papal tiara and the color yellow in the flag of Vatican City represent the spiritual power of the Pope whereas color white symbolizes his secular power.

Color orange in the flag of Bhutan, color white in Thailand flag, 4 leaves in the flag of Sri Lanka and Angkor Wat Buddhist temple in the flag of Cambodia represent Buddhism. Since at least 70% of the population living in Bhutan, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Cambodia are Buddhists (Bradshaw, 2000) country flags represent Buddhism. Triangles in the Nepal flag represent Hinduism and Buddhism. The Star of David in the flag of Israel whose population is dominantly Jew represents Judaism.

Table 3. Colors, symbols and their meanings in the flags in which Islam and Christianity are emphasized

Country	Colors, Symbols and Their Meaning
Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Comoros, Iran, Mauritania, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sudan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Color Green symbolizes Islam
Algeria, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Pakistan, Tunisia, Turkey	Crescent and star depict Islam
Azerbaijan, Brunei, Comoros, Maldives, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan	Crescent shaped moon symbolizes
United Kingdom, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Finland, Guernsey, Georgia, Greece, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Tonga, Faroe Islands, Malta, Montserrat, Niue, Pitcairn Islands, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Slovakia, Tonga, Wallis and Futuna Islands	Symbol of cross depicts Christianity

Elements that express the race of the nation are included in the flags of some countries. Color black in the flags of Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe signifies the black people who constitute the majority of the population. Color black in the Uganda flag depicts the African nation and colors black and white in Saint Lucia, Botswana and Swaziland flags represent the black and white races in those countries. The flag of Antilles islands have the color



black to represent the fact that the ancestors in the land had once been slaves. Color black in the flags of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica depicts the fact that the majority of the inhabitants are black.

Various colors, stars, symbols, coats-of-arms and signs have been used in some of the country flags to describe the ethnic structure. Color blue in the flags of Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan represent the Turkish nation that constitutes the majority in these countries. The star and the crescent in the flag of Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus depict Islam and Turkish origin. The three of the stars in the flag of Bosnia and Herzegovina represent the three ethnic groups in the country (Bosnians, Croats, Serbs), the six stars in the Kosovo flag depict the six ethnic elements in the country (Albanians, Serbs, Turks, Gorani, Roma and Bosnians) and the three stars in the flag of Burundi symbolize the three ethnic communities in the country (Hutu, Tutsi and Twa). Color black in the flag of Tanzania represents the Swahili nation, color green in Djibouti flag depicts the Afar nation in the country and the color black in the flag of South Sudan represents the South Sudan nation. The 12 points in the flag of Nauru represent 12 native tribes in the country and the star in the flag of Suriname symbolizes the unity of the ethnic communities in the country. Black Basotho hat in the flag of Lesotho represents the natives of the country, the coat-of-arm in the flag of Mexico depicts the Aztec nation and the symbols and colors in the flag of Sri Lanka represent the ethnic elements in the country (Lion represents Sinhalese ethnic community, orange symbolizes the Tamils, green symbolizes the Moors and yellow signifies the other ethnicities).

Some country flags include elements that are regarded as the symbol of those countries. The dagger that hangs from the waist of most of the adult Oman men, the tent of the Kyrgyz nation and the carpet motives of the Turkmen nation.

### 3.4. *Political geography*

Some country flags include elements related to political geography. Colors that represent the Slav nation (white, blue and red) are depicted in the flags of Russia, Serbia, Croatia and Slovakia. Blue is replaced by a green band in the Bulgarian flag.

The Ethiopian flag includes green, yellow and red colors. Ethiopia is the oldest independent African country. The three colors used in the 1895 flag has been associated with independence by the other African countries, widely used and regarded as Pan-African colors. The countries that use the famous Pan-African colors of Ethiopia are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Republic of The Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Togo. The flag of Central African Republic combines Pan-African colors with the color of the flag of France under whose colony it served in the past.

The design and the colors in the United Kingdom (especially the color blue) represent the other nations, soils and the commonwealth, provinces and English overseas regions. This flag has been the basis for many of the world flags. The countries that has the United Kingdom flag on the mast of their flags are Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Coral Sea Islands, Falkland Islands, Montserrat, Pitcairn Islands, Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan Da Cunha; South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands. The countries under Australia with United Kingdom flag on the upper part of the mast in their flags are Ash more and Cartier Islands, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Coral Sea Islands, Heard Island and McDonald Islands. The countries under New Zealand with United Kingdom flag on the upper part of the mast in their flags are Cook Islands and Niue Islands. Dhekelia and Akrotiri use the same flag as the United Kingdom.

The dependent nations who use the French flag are Clipperton Island, French Southern and Antarctic Lands, New Caledonia, Saint Barthelemy and Saint Martin. The French Flag on the upper part of the mast in the flag of Wallis and Futuna Island represent the fact that the island is dependent on France. The dependent countries that use the flag of United States of America are Navassa and United States Pacific Island Wildlife Refugees. The flags of Bouvet Island connected to Norway and the flags of Jan Mayen Island and Svalbard Islands are the same with the flag of Norway. Flags of Hong Kong and Macau were designed after the Chinese flag. The color in the flag of Hong Kong represents the home land and the same color is used also in the Chinese flag. The 5 stars in the Macau flag are inspired by the Chinese flag.

Some countries emphasize the state structure used in the country. The stars in the flag of Venezuela represent the states in the country, the 27 stars in the flag of Brazil represent the 27 states and the 50 stars in the flag of United States of America represent the states in the country.

The political structure is also represented in some flags. Color blue in the flag of Thailand and the emblem in the flag of Brunei, ruled by sultanate, represent monarchy. Colors in the flags of France and Serbia and the color red in the flags of China, Vietnam and North Korea represent revolution. Stars in the flags of North Korea and Vietnam symbolize socialism.

#### 4. Conclusion

Some remarkable results have been obtained as a result of investigating the meanings and the reasons behind the use flags utilized as symbols of countries and designed with various symbols and colors. Investigating the meaning of country flags shows that majority of them include geographical elements. Nations have replaced in their flags the physical and human geography elements that are important for them. Most of the world countries (86%) include elements related to geographical characteristics. The dominant elements in the natural and human environmental conditions have been emphasized in flags. Flags help us to perceive the geographical characteristics of the countries. Disciplines other than geography may contribute to science by undertaking research about flags as well.

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