
The black flag is the sign of piracy

To "strike the flag" is to lower the natural colors as a token of submission.

A "flag of truce" is a white flag displayed to an enemy for a parley or consultation.

Flags are used as a symbol of rank and command, the officers raising them being called flag officers. Such flags are square to distinguish them from other banners.

The white flag is a sign of peace. After a battle parties from both sides often go out to the field to rescue the wounded or bring the dead under the protection of the white flag.

The red flag is a sign of defiance and is often used by revolutionists. In our service it is a mark of danger and shows a vessel to be rescuing or discharging her powder.

A flag at half-mast means mourning. Fishing and other vessels return with a flag half-mast to announce the loss or death of some of them.

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