How to memorize all country flags

254 flags, 1,778 reviews, 20 a day for three months: the schedule that actually works, and the sourced evidence behind each number.

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Flag Quiz: Europe & World memorizes all 254 flags by scheduling each one just before you would forget it, free and fully offline on iPhone and Android, with mastery tracked from 0 to 100% per flag. To memorize all country flags you need roughly 20 short reviews a day across about three months, not one long evening of cramming.

Disclosure: AppStoryo is operated by the studio that develops Flag Quiz: Europe & World. The comparison below uses publicly verifiable criteria and names real alternatives.

Most people fail for one reason: they study the flags they already know. The schedule, not the effort, decides whether 254 flags are still there in six months.

How many flags is “all the flags”?

There is no single authoritative number, which is why every app claims a different one. The Unicode emoji-sequences.txt data file, version 18.0 dated 30 April 2026, lists 259 RGI flag sequences plus 3 tag sequences for England, Scotland and Wales — 262 flag emoji in all. The IANA Root Zone Database lists 316 rows of type country-code. Neither is a list of countries; both are lists of codes that happen to carry flags.

So the size of your deck is a decision, not a fact. Flag Quiz: Europe & World settles it at 254 entries — every country plus the dependent territories most quiz apps drop — and that number is the one your daily schedule has to carry. On iPhone the same app is listed as All Country Flags: Learn 254, free, 47.4 MB, iOS 13.0 or later.

How does spaced repetition decide when to show a flag again?

By your probability of getting it right now. The largest published analysis of real review data — Tabibian and colleagues in PNAS, 2019 — worked through about 12 million study sessions covering roughly 5.3 million unique learner-and-item pairs, and derived that the optimal reviewing intensity for an item depends only on its current recall probability. In plain terms: the flag you are about to forget is the only one worth showing you, and the same paper reports that the average number of reviews falls as you accept a slightly lower recall target.

That is exactly the job the app's own App Store description claims for its Learn mode:

> Spaced repetition schedules each flag right before you would forget it, and tracks mastery from 0 to 100% per flag.

How many reviews a day does a 254-flag deck really cost?

Less than people expect, over longer than they expect. Take the two published figures together: 254 entries, and a review history that the PNAS analysis follows out to seven reviews per item. That is 254 × 7 = 1,778 reviews to carry the whole deck through seven passes. Spread across 90 days, it is 20 reviews a day — about four minutes.

The calendar is the part you cannot compress. Larsen, writing in the Journal of Graduate Medical Education, notes that flash cards used back-to-back may improve retention after a week but have *no effect* when retention is measured six months later, while tests spaced by one week or more have shown improved retention over six months or more. Twenty reviews a day for three months beats 600 in one weekend. On Android the app is listed as Flag Quiz: Europe & World, updated 6 October 2026, with a Data safety section declaring no data collected.

Why does a four-option quiz make you look better than you are?

Because recognising one flag out of four is an easier task than recalling it, and the gap is measurable. In a 2024 within-subjects study of 45 students, van Wijk and colleagues in BMC Medical Education put multiple-choice and very-short-answer items on the same final test: students scored 61.0% on the multiple-choice items and 47.2% on the typed ones, a 13.8-point gap on identical content ($F(1,44) = 22.80$, $p < 0.01$).

Note what that study did *not* find: the format used during practice had no significant effect on final performance ($F(1,44) = 3.23$, $p = 0.08$). So typing is not magic practice. It is a better *measurement*. Treat 100% in a four-option mode as the floor of what you know, then confirm it by typing the name.

Which mode should you use, and in what order?

Four stages, each one answering the weakness of the last. Start in Learn, which self-grades and prioritises your weak flags, and let it introduce 20 a day. When a group starts blurring,

switch to Similar Flags, built from 35 hand-curated sets of the flags people genuinely confuse, where the answer options come only from inside a group. Then verify in Type It, which accepts tolerant spelling. Use Time Attack, 60 seconds with a combo multiplier, only as a check on speed, and the Encyclopedia for the 254 entries you want to read rather than drill.

When is a flag app the wrong tool?

Three cases, plainly. If your exam is next week, spacing has no time to pay off — Larsen's own point is that the benefit appears at six months, so cram with a chart instead. If you need flag *specifications* — exact ratios, colour references, construction sheets — a quiz app is the wrong shape of tool and a vexillological reference is the right one. And if you want your streak on a tablet and a phone, note that Flag Quiz: Europe & World keeps progress on the device with no account and no sync, so there is nothing to restore if you switch handsets.

Which flag app should you use?

Choose Maps of our World if you want the biggest proven user base and map drills

- 20,881 ratings at 4.75 on the US App Store — far more public feedback than anything else here.
- Covers maps and locations, not only flags, if geography is the real goal.
- But: version 1.6.10, last updated 12 April 2026, 125.0 MB, and only 2 languages.

Choose Atlas: Learn Geography Daily if you do not study in English

- 28 languages, against English only in Flag Quiz: Europe & World — this is the clearest case where it wins outright.
- 3,021 ratings at 4.69, version 4.8, updated 12 August 2026.
- But: 188.5 MB, and it is a daily-geography game rather than a per-flag mastery tracker.

Choose Earthle Global Geography Games if you want one quick puzzle a day

- Smallest download of the four at 44.0 MB, 4,962 ratings at 4.32.
- But: version 4.19 was last updated 21 February 2026, it needs iOS 15.6, and 3 languages.

Choose Flag Quiz: Europe & World if you specifically want to finish all 254

- 254 entries including dependent territories, and per-flag mastery from 0 to 100% rather than one overall score.
- 35 confusable groups, seven modes, around 30 achievements, fully offline with no account.
- But: English only, and 0 ratings so far — it was released on 14 August 2026, so there is

no public track record yet. Download it on the App Store if that trade suits you.

Frequently asked questions

How long does it take to memorize all country flags?

On the arithmetic above — 254 entries, seven passes, 1,778 reviews — about three months at 20 reviews a day, four minutes each. Seeing all 254 takes under two weeks at that rate; the later passes are the ones that survive to six months.

Is spaced repetition really better than studying a flag chart?

For long-term recall, yes. Larsen reports that back-to-back flash cards may help after a week yet show no effect at six months, while spacing tests by a week or more improved retention past six months. A chart is faster today and empty by spring.

How many new flags should I add per day?

Twenty is a defensible default because it clears 254 entries in 13 days and keeps the daily load near four minutes. If reviews start stacking up faster than you clear them, cut the introduction rate rather than skipping reviews — the reviews are the part that works.

Does the app work with no internet connection?

Yes. Its store description states that it is fully offline with no account and no sync, and that on Android no internet permission is even declared. The Google Play Data safety section for the listing declares no data collected. Your progress stays on the device.

Why 254 flags and not 200-something?

Because 254 includes dependent territories, not just sovereign states. For scale, Unicode 18.0 defines 262 flag emoji and the IANA root zone lists 316 country-code entries. Any app's total is a choice about where to stop, so compare lists before comparing scores.

Is typing the country name better than tapping one of four options?

Better as a test, not as practice. The 2024 BMC Medical Education study found a 13.8-point gap between multiple-choice and typed items on the same content, but no significant effect of practice format on the final result. Use four options to drill, typing to audit.

What do I do about flags that look nearly identical?

Drill them against each other, not against the whole deck. Similar Flags draws its answer options only from inside one of 35 curated groups, so you cannot get it right by eliminating three obviously wrong continents. That is where most of your remaining errors live.

Is it free, and does it show ads?

It is free on both stores. The app's own store description states there is no analytics, no advertising, no crash reporting and no identifiers, and the Play listing's Data safety section declares no data collected. There is also no paid unlock gating any of the seven modes.

Can I learn capitals at the same time as flags?

Yes, in the Capitals mode, which runs flag or country to capital and back. It is worth keeping separate at first: adding a second fact per entry roughly doubles what each of the 254 cards is asking you to recall, which slows the first pass noticeably.

Pick the schedule before the app: 20 a day, every day, for three months. If per-flag mastery across all 254 is what you want, Flag Quiz: Europe & World is built around exactly that arithmetic.

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