



#10099

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

WESTON WOODS STUDIOS, 2002

Grade Level: K-6

15 mins.

1 Instructional Graphic Enclosed

DESCRIPTION

The American victory at Ft. McHenry during the War of 1812 inspired young Francis Scott Key to write the poem that eventually became our national anthem. Includes a history of the song. Based on the picture book by Peter Spier. Illustrated in detail. Sung by Aretha Franklin.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Civics—What Are the Basic Values and Principles of American Democracy

- Standard: Understands the importance of Americans sharing and supporting certain values, beliefs, and principles of American constitutional democracy
 - ◆ Benchmark: Knows how various symbols are used to depict Americans' shared values, principles, and beliefs and explain their meaning (e.g., the flag, Statue of Liberty, Statue of Justice, Uncle Sam, great seal, national anthem, oaths of office, mottoes such as E Pluribus Unum) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1 and 2.)

Subject Area: Grades K-4 History—The History of the United States: Democratic Principles and Values and the People from Many Cultures who Contributed to its Cultural, Economic, and Political Heritage

- Standard: Understands how democratic values came to be, and how they have been exemplified by people, events, and symbols
 - ◆ Benchmark: Knows the history of American symbols (e.g., the eagle, the Liberty Bell, George Washington as the "father of our country," the national flag) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 3.)

Subject Area: Language Arts—Reading

- Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts
 - ◆ Benchmark: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of literary passages and texts (e.g., fairy tales, folktales, fiction, nonfiction, myths, poems, fables, fantasies, historical fiction, biographies, autobiographies, chapter books) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 4.)

C a p t i o n e d M e d i a P r o g r a m

- Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of informational texts
 - ♦ Benchmark: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of informational texts (e.g., textbooks, biographical sketches, letters, diaries, directions, procedures, magazines) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 4.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To illustrate the words of the national anthem.
2. To show that the U.S. flag is a symbol of freedom.
3. To explain the history behind the writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner."
4. To promote the reading of children's literature.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This video initially presents three verses of "The Star-Spangled Banner" with background illustrations from the book, *The Star-Spangled Banner*. Then the video proceeds to give the history of the writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner". This information is also available after the text of the poem in the book in even more detail than the video.

VOCABULARY

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. anthem | 6. dawn | 11. release |
| 2. bombardment | 7. fight | 12. rockets |
| 3. brave | 8. flag | 13. stars |
| 4. British | 9. free | 14. stripes |
| 5. fort | 10. ramparts | 15. wave |

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Read the book *The Star-Spangled Banner* by Francis Scott Key, with illustrations by Peter Spier. Consider sharing some of the historical information after the poem.
2. Look at an American flag. Discuss the meaning of the stars and stripes. List places where people see the U.S. flag. Describe what the flag means personally.

DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Pause at the scene just after the line, "Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there." Notice that the flag in this picture has changed to the current U.S. flag.
3. Note that the flag changes from past to present several times during the words to the national anthem.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

The National Anthem

1. What is the author trying to see? How is he able to see the flag during the night? Where is the flag?
2. Why is the author having trouble seeing the flag? What other flag might it be? Where does he finally see that it is the U.S. flag?
3. Who should the flag always fly for? What land does the flag fly over?



About the National Anthem

1. Who wrote the words to the song "The Star-Spangled Banner"? When did he write it? What war was happening at that time?
2. What had the British troops captured in August 1814? What did they burn?
3. Why did Fort McHenry's commander order the sewing of a very large flag? How big was the flag?
4. Why did Francis Scott Key sail out to a British ship from Baltimore? Was he able to get his friend released?
5. Why was Francis Scott Key kept on the British ship just before the attack on Baltimore?
6. Describe the battle. Explain what happened to cause Francis Scott Key to write the poem about the U.S. flag.
7. How did the poem become famous? When did it officially become the U.S. national anthem?
8. How many verses does the poem have? Which verse do people usually sing? Which verse is almost always left out? Why?
9. Where is the original flag from Fort McHenry on display?

Applications and Activities

1. Review the words to the first verse of "The Star-Spangled Banner." (See INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHIC.) Discuss the meanings. Sing or sign the first verse.
2. Make a display of photos or illustrations of government buildings, monuments, schools, homes, etc., where the flag is flown. Encourage everyone to watch for the flag.
3. Discuss the flag. Describe things it makes you think of. Write thoughts about the flag in the form of simple poems. Share the poems, and exhibit them with the flag display.
4. Research the life of Francis Scott Key. Share the information gathered.
5. Discuss symbols.
 - a. Explain that the flag is a symbol of freedom. Discuss other familiar symbols, such as a police officer's badge or McDonald's golden arches.
 - b. Create original symbols with construction paper, scissors, glue, and crayons.
 - c. Share the completed symbols, describing what the symbols represent.

C a p t i o n e d M e d i a P r o g r a m

6. Research and report on the history of the U.S. flag. Include the meanings of the various parts and its changes throughout U.S. history.
7. Review the meaning of the stars and stripes on the flag. Draw small U.S. flags. Attach the flags to sticks or rulers. March with the flags to patriotic music.
8. Investigate the tune used for the national anthem.

SUMMARY

This is the story of the American victory during the war of 1812, set to the song created by Francis Scott Key. Detailed illustrations accompany the words of our national anthem.

The American flag, flying high over Fort McHenry, is shown in all its glory, reminding Americans of the battles fought and won to create the free nation that we are today.



CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- [The Story of the National Anthem #3413](#)
- [Old Glory #3277](#)
- [The U.S. Flag #9438](#)
- [What Is A Flag? #3419](#)
- [So You Want to be President? #10084](#)

World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

• THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

<http://www.usflag.org/toc.html>

This site is full of information about the U.S. flag, including a large history section with data about Francis Scott Key and why he wrote the poem. Also provided are specifics about the evolution of the flag.



- **THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER WEB SITE**

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/ssb/>

This site from the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian has information about the actual flag that flew over Fort McHenry, which is on display there. It includes restoration data; history of this particular flag, including the making of the flag by Mary Pickersgill; and additional details about Francis Scott Key.

- **THE FLAG HOUSE AND STAR-SPANGLED BANNER MUSEUM TEACHER PAGE**

http://www.flaghouse.org/teacher/t_lesson.html

This is a great teacher resource that has background information regarding the making of the flag, Mary Pickersgill, Francis Scott Key, and the "Star-Spangled Banner." Also provides a lesson plan for teaching about the making of the flag. Links are provided to other related Web sites, including additional lesson plan sites.

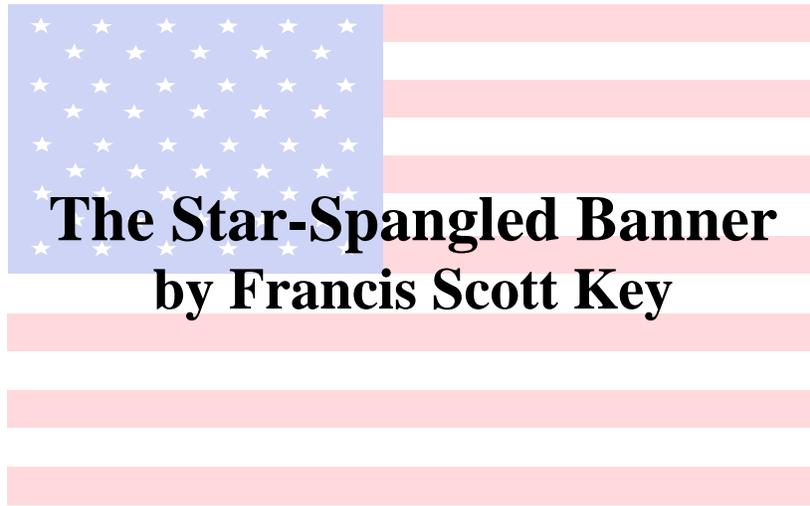
- **FORT MCHENRY**

<http://www.nps.gov/fomc/home.htm>

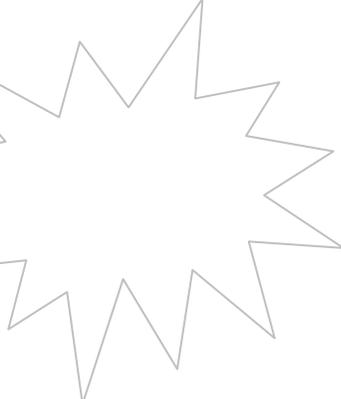
Visit Fort McHenry's Web site for facts about the fort. The "Teacher's Guide" section includes a sequence of lesson plans for teaching about the history of the fort and "The Star-Spangled Banner," with handouts for many of the lessons. See the "Site Bulletins" section for additional information and illustrations. The link connects to another informative site that includes a photo tour of the fort.

INSTRUCTIONAL GRAPHIC

- **THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER**



Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?



On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines on the stream;
'Tis the star-spangled banner, oh, long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!



Oh, thus be it ever when free-men shall stand,
Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!
Blest with vict'ry and peace may the heav'n-rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserv'd us as a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause is just,
And this be our motto, "In God is our Trust,"
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Captioned Media Program