



"The STAR SPANGLED BANNER"

Oh Say ——— Can You See?

"The STAR-SPANGLED BANNER" is our National Anthem; but what is it all about? What is an "Anthem?" Why do we sing this WHEN we sing it? We may not know all these words, but we can learn some of the story.

OBJECTIVES:

- To learn a small part about a song which is a big part of our nation's heritage and traditions
- To make a connection to a song (or songs) which can prompt personal and shared meaning, emotion, and memory

RESOURCES:

From Teacher:

- *History & Lyrics: "The Star Spangled Banner"
- *Music Listening Response page

From Home:

- *Colored pencils
- *YouTube, if possible

INSTRUCTION & ACTIVITY

1. **AMERICA'S NATIONAL ANTHEM** Students often hear and learn common songs by their sounds, but not always with learning or understanding the actual words or story. (Especially from over 200 years ago!)

- **READ:** The history of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the **lyrics** (a song's words) on the back.
- **WATCH:** *The History of the Star-Spangled Banner for Kids: Francis Scott Key and Fort McHenry - FreeSchool Grade 5&6* /longer version: "Star Spangled Banner As You've Never Heard It"
- **CONSIDER:** **Why was Francis Scott Key so inspired by the sight of the American Flag?*
- **LISTEN:** The link of the song on the class YouTube list includes the lyrics and youth vocals.
- **RESPOND:** Use the "Response" page to capture your thoughts from hearing the anthem in a new way.

2. **A NEW ANTHEM?** An **anthem** can be thought of as a song which has special meaning about an event, place, values, or traditions. They unite people because of how they can also prompt emotions and memories; but also how they connect different generations who pass the music and heritage down.

On the class's YouTube library are some other patriotic songs, such as "This Land is Your Land," "God Bless the USA," "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," and "America" (Oh Beautiful). Your family is invited to explore and share these together. These are well-known, but you may have another that is special to your family.

**What other song do you think would make a good national anthem for our nation now, 204 years later?*

Your Song Suggestion:

Why this one?

☒ Targeted Essential Standards:

SKILLS & PERFORMING:
ELEMENTS & UNDERSTANDING:
CONTEXTS & CONNECTING:

Create:
Interpret & Respond:
Relate & Synthesize:

☒ Sing
☒ Concepts
☒ Literacy
☐ Move
☐ Elements of Music
☒ Cultural/Global

☐ Play
☐ Rhythmic
☒ History

☐ Improvise
☒ Melodic
☐ Technology

☐ Refine
☒ Vocabulary
☒ Social/Emotional