

# ★ The Star-Spangled Banner ★

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this lesson is for students to memorize at least the first verse of “The Star-Spangled Banner.” Students will be able to explain the meaning of the verse.

## **Objective**

The student will be able to explain the meaning of the first verse of the song, “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

## **Theme - Unity**

“The Star-Spangled Banner” is a song that serves to unify the nation by providing a common anthem that is used at public and private gatherings of citizens.

## **Core Knowledge**

Grade 2 - Amer Hist & Geog. Sec II: The War of 1812. Fort McHenry, Francis Scott Key, the Star-Spangled Banner. Sec VIII: Symbols & Figures, U. S. Flag.

## **Time**

45 minutes

## **Materials**

- ★ KWL Chart
- ★ “The Star-Spangled Banner” handout
- ★ Dictionary
- ★ Website - [www.americanheritage.org](http://www.americanheritage.org)

## **Preparation**

- ★ Copy materials for each student or group of students.

## **Focus**

Students are to gain an understanding of the elements that make up the verses of “The Star-Spangled Banner.” Students will gain an understanding of how the song can contribute to unity for citizens of the nation. (See Links page on [www.americanheritage.org](http://www.americanheritage.org) for additional resources on the Star-Spangled Banner.)

## **Activity**

1. Have students complete the KWL chart as a pre-test. Review and discuss the Star-Spangled Banner and its general topic. Discuss when, why, and how the song was created. What is the song about? Who wrote it?
2. Have students listen to a recording of the first verse of the song as they read the verse.
3. Students discuss the verse line by line and develop an understanding of the meaning. Students may also discuss the meanings of the other verses as instructed.
4. Students will then stand, remove their hats as needed, and sing the first and possibly all verses of the anthem.
5. Explain to students that while “The Star-Spangled Banner” is a song about our flag, as our national anthem it is also a song that reminds us about our country. Discuss occasions and events that students might hear or sing the national anthem. Students may complete the text puzzle and other activity handouts individually or in groups as instructed. Discuss.

## **Closure**

As a closure activity students complete the “L” section of their KWL charts on what they have learned about the Star-Spangled Banner.

# K-W-L Chart

<b>What I Know</b>	<b>What I Want to Know</b>	<b>What I Learned</b>

# ***The Star-Spangled Banner***

In the early 1800s, Great Britain and France were involved in a war in Europe. During the war, both countries violated the neutrality of countries like the United States by seizing trading ships. In addition to seizing American ships, the British impressed, or kidnapped, the American sailors on these ships and forced them to serve in the British navy. When the British refused to stop this practice, the United States declared war on Great Britain on June 18, 1812. The war that followed is called the War of 1812.

British troops invaded the United States during the War of 1812. The Americans now fought to preserve the independence that they had won just 30 years before. The British actually captured and burned Washington, D.C., including the Capitol Building and the White House. Next, the British marched toward Baltimore, Maryland. The American troops at Fort

McHenry bravely defended Baltimore and stopped the British advance.

During the battle at Baltimore, a Maryland lawyer and poet named Francis Scott Key was aboard a British ship to arrange for the release of an American held prisoner by the British. The British bombarded Fort McHenry throughout the night of September 13, 1814. The next morning, when Key observed from the ship that the American flag was still flying above the fort, he was inspired to write the words of his poem, "The Star-Spangled Banner."

"The Star-Spangled Banner" was adopted informally as an anthem by the Union Army during the Civil War and was adopted officially by the U.S. Army in World War I. It became the United States' national anthem on March 3, 1931.



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, thro' 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 thro' 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?

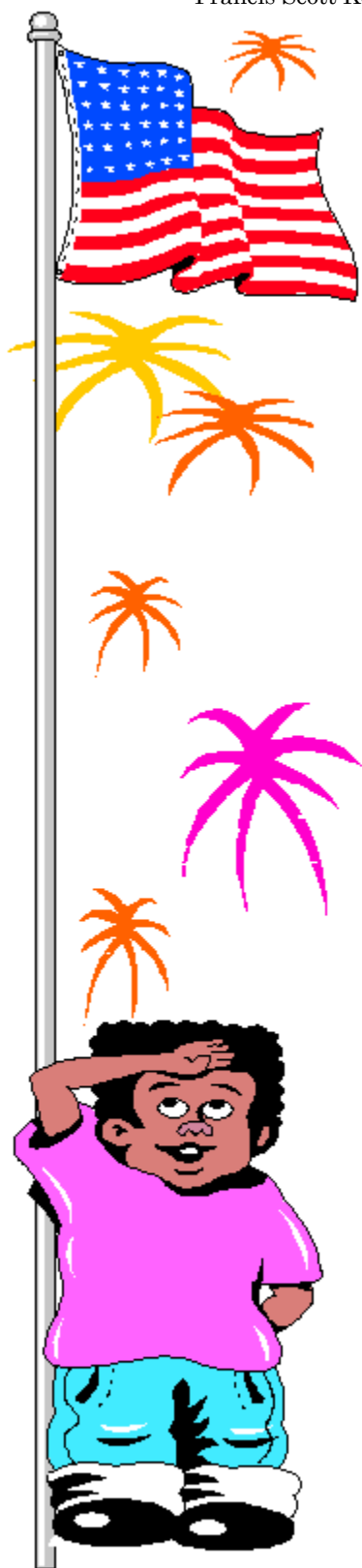
## **Complete the following on a separate sheet of paper.**

1. Define: neutrality, seize, invade, bombard, anthem, dawn, twilight, perilous, rampart, gallant.
2. Why did the United States declare war on Great Britain in 1812?
3. What did the British do to Washington, D.C.?
4. Why was the battle at Baltimore important for the Americans?
5. What inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner"?
6. When did "The Star-Spangled Banner" become our national anthem?

# ***The Star-Spangled Banner***

Words by  
Francis Scott Key

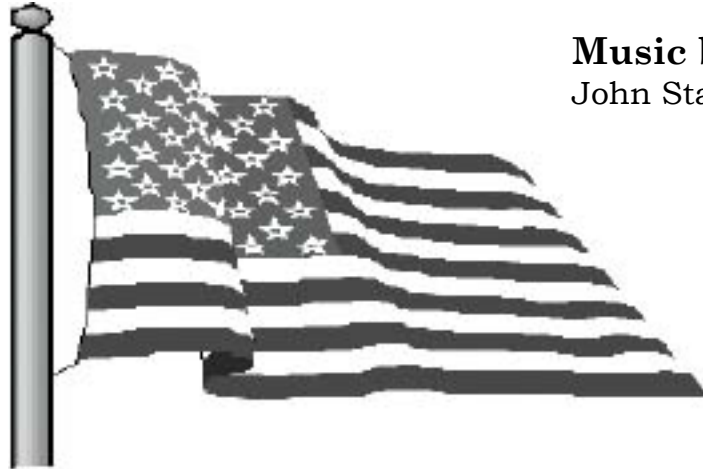
Music by  
John Stafford Smith



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**Words by**  
Francis Scott Key



**Music by**  
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1. 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, thro' 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 thro' 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?
2. On the shore, dimly seen thro' 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, O long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!
3. And where is that band who so vauntingly swore  
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,  
A home and a country should leave us no more!  
Their blood has washed out of their foul footsteps' pollution.  
No refuge could save the hireling and slave  
From the terror of flight and the gloom of the grave:  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.
4. Oh, thus be it ever when freemen shall stand  
Between their lov'd homes and the war's desolation!  
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n rescued land  
Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserved us a nation!  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it 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!

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you see, by

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Whose broad

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O'er the

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