

# (64) The Star-Spangled Banner

Podcast Length: 18:02  
Character Value: Patriotism  
Health Message: The many ways we can get exercise

## Introduction

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Today's Walking Classroom looks at America's national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the historical battle that inspired its lyrics. The song is often sung at sporting events and other special occasions that allow us to celebrate our country and show our pride in America.

## Discussion

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**1. What were some of the big ideas of this podcast?**

- ✓ *"The Star-Spangled Banner" was originally written about a battle in the War of 1812, which helped establish the U.S. as a strong country. It didn't become our national anthem until 1931.*
- ✓ *The banner, or flag, that Francis Scott Key wrote about was flying over Fort McHenry and let him and others know that the British had failed in their attack.*
- ✓ *The song is often sung at sporting events and other special occasions that allow us to celebrate our country and show our pride America.*

**2. Francis Scott Key wrote the poem that became our national anthem while he was actually experiencing the battle.**

**a) How do you think Francis Scott Key felt while the battle was happening??**

- ✓ *Suggestion: Key was likely terrified as he sat on a British ship that was bombing Fort McHenry. It was dark and noisy. He may have been hopeful that somehow the Patriots might win the battle.*

**b) How do his words capture those feelings?**

- ✓ *(You might want to read or sing the lyrics together with the students.) Suggested answers: proudly, gallantly streaming, land of the free and home of the brave, etc.*

**3. The podcast discussed some of the behaviors that Americans are expected to follow while the national anthem is being sung. What is your opinion on cheering after our national anthem is performed? Explain.**

- ✓ *Suggestion: Clapping and cheering after our national anthem might make people feel like they are celebrating the meaning of the lyrics they just sang and the freedoms they get to experience in the United States. Other people may think clapping and cheering is an uncivil response to a song about our country that should be revered and respected.*

## Health Check

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**1. Exercise always feels like a chore, but it's important to get through it.**

- A) True    B) False

**2. Playing a baseball game with your friend does not count as a workout.**

- A) True    B) False