



(64) The Star-Spangled Banner

Health Message: The many ways we can get exercise

Podcast length: 18:02

LESSON PLAN

SYNOPSIS

Today's Walking Classroom looks at America's national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the historical battle that inspired its lyrics. "The Star-Spangled Banner" was originally written as a poem after a battle in the War of 1812, when Francis Scott Key saw the flag flying over Fort McHenry and he knew 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 in America.

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

SL.5.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions on grade 5 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

RI.5.3 Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text.

OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Trace the evolution of Francis Scott Key's lyrics from a poem about the war of 1812 to our national anthem
- Understand the significance of the battle that inspired the lyrics and the historical figures that contributed to the story
- Consider how music has contributed to our nation's identity

PROCEDURE

If you want to compare student comprehension before and after listening, administer the Comprehension Quiz before doing anything related to the podcast. Retest after walking.

1. Review key vocabulary (included definitions are limited to the context of today's podcast)
 - **anthem** (noun) a song celebrating something or displaying patriotism; a song that is associated with a certain group or country
*The Star-Spangled Banner is the national **anthem** of the United States of America.*
 - **negotiation** (noun) a form of trading or bargaining to come to an agreement
*Our **negotiations** with our enemies ensured that the hostages would be freed.*
 - **lyrics** (noun) the words to a song
*He wrote some catchy **lyrics** to his songs that stick with us today.*

2. Build background by asking students, “Do you know how ‘The Star-Spangled Banner’ became our national anthem? Have you heard of Francis Scott Key, and how he ended up writing the lyrics?”

(allow time for discussion)

3. Podcast preview: “Today we’re going to learn more about the history of our national anthem, ‘The Star-Spangled Banner’ and how it became such an important part of our American tradition. Ready? Let’s go!”

4. Walk!

5. Upon return to the classroom, discuss the main ideas and highlights of the podcast. Main ideas and highlights might include the following:

- “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 in America.

6. Administer comprehension quiz.

QUESTIONS FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Enthusiastically ask students how they feel post-walk. Foster a healthy attitude toward exercise by reminding students that physical activity improves brain function.

2. How do you think Francis Scott Key felt during the battle that he wrote about? How do his words capture those feelings?

3. Why do you think this particular song was eventually chosen to be our national anthem? Francis Scott Key writes about the flag waving over, “the land of the free and the home of the brave.” Why do you think Americans value the freedoms we have in this country? What are some of the freedoms you enjoy?

4. 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 clapping and cheering after the anthem is performed? Explain.

COMPREHENSION QUIZ ANSWER KEY

1. c 2.b 3.b 4.b 5.c 6. c 7. 2,3,1 8.a 9.b 10.b

For additional information on related websites and activities, visit our website:

www.thewalkingclassroom.org

Name _____

Date _____

- When Francis Scott Key wrote about the “star-spangled banner”, what was he referring to?
 - the British victory banner that flew to let all know that the battle was over
 - a vision he had of the way our flag should look in the night sky
 - an actual American flag that was sewn by Mary Pickersgill to fly over Baltimore
- The lyrics to “The Star-Spangled Banner”...
 - were originally part of a poem written about life in England
 - were originally part of a poem written about a battle during the War of 1812
 - were originally part of a poem written about a battle in World War 1
- How did “The Star-Spangled Banner” become our national anthem?
 - The baseball commissioner decided it should be sung at every baseball game.
 - Its words were set to music and became especially popular during World War 1.
 - It was adopted by our government after we won the War of 1812.
- An anthem is:
 - a battle tactic
 - a song identified with a certain group or country
 - a motto
- What would be the best way to describe the lyrics of our national anthem?
 - fierce
 - off-beat
 - patriotic
- Which of the following is an OPINION about the Star-Spangled Banner?
 - The flag that inspired the song now hangs in the Smithsonian Museum.
 - It is the only song that Francis Scott Key ever wrote the lyrics for.
 - It is a solemn song and people should not cheer after the final lyrics are sung.
- Put the following events in the order they occurred (1,2,3).
_____ Francis Scott Key was held captive on a British ship.
_____ The Americans won the battle of Fort McHenry.
_____ Mary Pickersgill sewed a huge American flag.
- Why do you think it was so important for our country to stand strong in the War of 1812?
 - It was one of the first times our strength as a young nation had been tested.
 - If we hadn’t won, American citizens would have been immediately imprisoned.
 - The British were taxing our tea and treating us poorly.
- Exercise always feels like a chore, but it’s important to get through it.
 - true
 - false
- Playing a baseball game with your friends does not count as a workout.
 - true
 - false