

Star-Spangled Banner

Podcast Length: 18:02

Character Value: Patriotism

Health Message: The many ways we can get exercise

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.

Objectives

- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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!"
- Walk!

Questions for Thought and Discussion

Upon return to the classroom, discuss the main ideas and content from the podcast using the questions and suggested answers below.

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.

Star-Spangled Banner[®]

Comprehension Quiz

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 I.
- 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 I.
 - 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 for which Francis Scott Key ever wrote the lyrics.
 - 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