

GROUPWORK – The flag and the national anthem

- Read the following documents and prepare both a **poster** AND an **oral presentation** about the flag and the American national anthem
- Also **prepare 5 questions** to ask to your classmates to make sure they listened and understood what you explained.

Guidelines :

- describe the flag and explain what it represents, its colours, the stars, the stripes. How it is called.
- what is the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag ?
- Introduce the national anthem : how is it called ? How many stanzas are there ? Do people always sing it entirely ? What does it talk about briefly ? When was it written ? Who wrote it ? On what circumstances ?

Complete version of "The Star-Spangled Banner" showing spelling and punctuation from Francis Scott Key's manuscript in the Maryland Historical Society collection.

O 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 through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bomb bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen through 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 in 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!

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 wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight or 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.

O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!
Blest with vict'ry and peace may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the power that hath made and preserv'd 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.



Listen to Lady Gaga singing the 1st stanza of the star-spangled banner

The Flag of the United States

is a symbol of our country. It stands for the people, the land, and the freedom of the U.S.. The flag has changed many times over the years.



50 stars - 7 red stripes - 6 white stripes.

a star = a state

a stripe = 1 original colony

red = courage white = liberty blue = justice

1892 : President Harrison started the tradition of school children reciting the Pledge to the Flag

Also called : "Old Glory", "Star-spangled banner", "the stars and stripes"

A star is added to the flag when a new state joins the United States. The flag was last modified on July 4, 1960, when Hawaii was incorporated as a state.

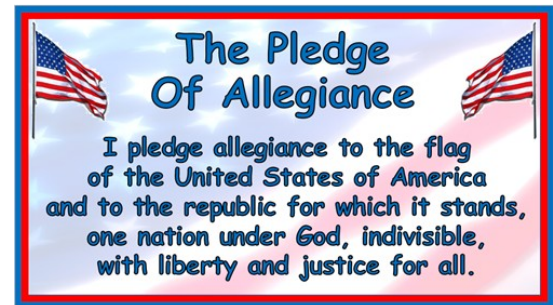


Learn how the Star-Spangled Banner became America's national anthem.

The Star-Spangled Banner is the national anthem of the United States.

To celebrate their victory over British forces during the War of 1812, U.S. soldiers raised a large American flag at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland, on September 14, 1814.

Poet Francis Scott Key was inspired by seeing the flag after witnessing the fort's bombardment. He wrote a poem called "Defence of Fort M'Henry." This eventually became the Star-Spangled Banner and the United States national anthem.



"The Star-Spangled Banner" wasn't actually adopted as the official anthem of the United States until 1931, though it was already popular and had already been used by several American institutions by then.

The Lyrics of "The Star-Spangled Banner"

The lyrics of "The Star-Spangled Banner" describe the flag of the United States during a pivotal moment in American history, the bombing of Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. Key, who was aboard a British ship during the attack, saw the American flag still flying at the end of the battle and was moved to write a poem about the experience. This poem, which later became the national anthem, is a celebration of the flag as a symbol of the American spirit.

The anthem's first verse, which is most commonly sung at public events, speaks of the flag "gallantly streaming" and "bombs bursting in air," describing the intense battle that was taking place. But it's the anthem's final line, "And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there" that encapsulates the anthem's core message of perseverance and resilience, the message that our nation will always stand strong and tall.