

Key to the National Anthem

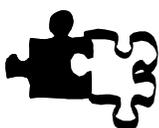
Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine Quarter

Grades Nine through Twelve



OBJECTIVE

Students will describe how the events of the Battle of Baltimore inspired Francis Scott Key to write the lyrics of “The Star Spangled Banner.”



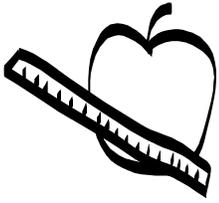
SUBJECT AREA CONNECTIONS

- Social Studies
- Music
- Language Arts



SUMMARY

1. Display and examine the “Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine Quarter” page or project the coin image with zoom feature at www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/atb/?local=FortMcHenry. Locate this monument’s site on a class map. Note its position in relation to your school’s location. Explain to the students that the United States Mint began to issue the quarters in the America the Beautiful Quarters® Program in 2010. By the time the program ends in 2021, there will be a total of 56 designs. Each design will focus on a different national site—one from each state, territory and the District of Columbia.
2. As a class, in small groups or in pairs, have the students brainstorm what the design symbolizes. Have students share their ideas with the entire class.
3. Read together the *Fort McHenry: Birthplace of Our National Anthem* page (see “Resources” below for Web site URL). Have the students answer the questions on the “Banner, Fort and War” worksheet.
4. Post the lyrics to “The Star-Spangled Banner” and have students listen to a recording of it. As a class, in small groups or in pairs, discuss what the lyrics mean, what symbolism Key used and student summaries of the verses.
5. Have students write a letter to an editor as if they were a witness to the British attack on Fort McHenry. Allow them to choose from different points of view such as a child, a soldier, a young adult or an adult of a particular class, occupation or gender. Have them include how this attack would make them feel and explain why, using facts from the reading and the lyrics of the song.



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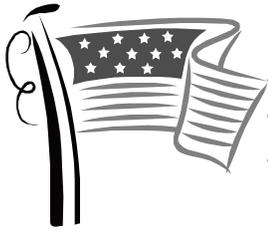
ASSESSMENT

- Use the rubric and students' letters to assess whether they have met the lesson objective.
- Take anecdotal notes on the student's participation in class discussions.



RESOURCES

- Worksheets:
 - “Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine Quarter”
 - “Banner, Fort, and War”
 - “Banner, Fort and War Key”
 - “Letter Writing Rubric”
- Age-appropriate, relevant Web sites, such as:
 - America the Beautiful Quarters® Program: www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/atb/
 - United States Mint zoom feature: www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/atb/?local=FortMcHenry.
 - Fort McHenry, Birthplace of our National Anthem: infousa.state.gov/life/symbol-celeb/national_anth.html
 - National Anthem: starspangled200.org/History/Pages/FlagandAnthem.aspx
 - National Anthem: www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/hh/5/hh5h.htm
 - Fort McHenry National Monument: www.nps.gov/fomc/index.htm
 - Library of Congress: A Guide to the War of 1812: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/1812/>
 - National Archives, Report of Lt. Col. George Armistead on the defense of Fort McHenry, September 24, 1814: www.archives.gov/historical-docs/todays-doc/index.html?dod-date=914



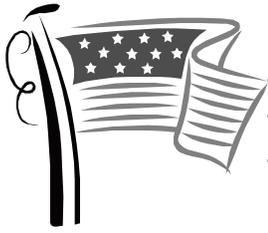
Name _____

Banner, Fort and War

Directions: After reading about Francis Scott Key and the Battle of Baltimore, answer the following questions.



1. In what city and state is Fort McHenry located?
2. What country was the United States primarily fighting in the War of 1812?
3. Why was Francis Scott Key at Fort McHenry? Why was he on a British ship?
4. When did "The Star-Spangled Banner" become our National Anthem?
5. What feelings do you think Key was trying to convey when he wrote the words?
6. Find and explain two examples of symbolism in the lyrics to "The Star-Spangled Banner."
7. Write a brief summary, in your own words, of each verse of "The Star-Spangled Banner."



Name _____

Banner, Fort and War Key

Directions: After reading about Francis Scott Key and the Battle of Baltimore, answer the following questions.



1. In what city and state is Fort McHenry located?

Baltimore, Maryland

2. What country was the United States primarily fighting in the War of 1812?

England

3. Why was Francis Scott Key at Fort McHenry? Why was he on a British ship?

To negotiate a friend's release from British forces. He was being held on the ship during the battle.

4. When did "The Star-Spangled Banner" become our National Anthem?

1931

5. What feelings do you think Key was trying to convey when he wrote the words?

[Answers vary]

6. Find and explain two examples of symbolism in the lyrics to "The Star-Spangled Banner."

[Answers vary]

7. Write a brief summary, in your own words, of each verse of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

[Answers vary]

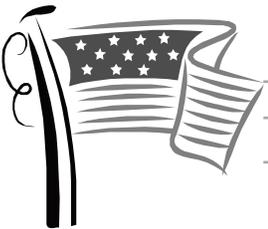


Name _____

Letter Writing Rubric

Directions: Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper describing the Battle of Fort McHenry in your chosen persona. Include how this attack would make you feel and explain why, using four facts from the reading and the lyrics of the song. Use this rubric to make sure that you do your best work.

Criteria	4	3	2	1	Self	Teacher
Facts	Stated at least 4 facts.	Stated only 3 facts.	Used only 1 or 2 facts.	Facts were few or inaccurate.		
Format	Historically accurate and in letter format.	Mostly accurate, correctly formatted.	Somewhat accurate and in letter format.	Little historical accuracy or formatting.		
Grammar, Spelling	No errors.	1 or 2 errors.	3 or 4 errors.	Numerous errors.		
Totals						



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Ft. McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine Quarter



The United States of America

