

A Brief Summary of "The Star Spangled Banner" -

"The Star-Spangled Banner" is the flag that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the words that he would later set to the music that would become our National Anthem. During the War of 1812, Key was detained on a British ship. He noticed the flag the American Flag still waving early in the morning after a major battle, and was inspired by the sight to write "The Star-Spangled Banner". The song became popular with Union troops and supporters during the Civil War, and was made our official National Anthem in 1931. The actual "star-spangled banner" that he saw from the ship is now on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

Vocabulary –

anthem: a song of praise or devotion. *"The British national anthem has the same tune as the patriotic American song, 'My Country 'Tis of Thee'."*

detain: to keep, to restrain. *"He was detained by airport officials for several hours."*

Fun Facts

- Major Armistead knew Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland would probably be a target for the British navy. He asked that a flag be made to fly over the fort. He wanted the flag to be large enough for the British to see it from miles away.
- Mary Young Pickersgill, a widowed flagmaker, was hired to sew the flag. She completed the flag in six weeks with the help of several family members. She used 300 yds. of English wool bunting cloth. Mary earned \$405.90 for making the flag.
- In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson decreed that "The Star Spangled Banner" be played at all state occasions. In 1931, the song became The National Anthem for the United States of America.

Name _____

Directions - Watch the video and read the facts above to complete this sheet.

1. Who wrote "The Star Spangled Banner" ? _____
2. When was the poem written? _____
3. In the poem "The Star Spangled Banner" what is The Star Spangled Banner? _____
4. Where was the star spangled banner flying when Francis Scott Key wrote about it? _____
5. Who was the flag maker? _____
6. When did "The Star Spangled Banner" become our National Anthem?

7. What is an anthem? _____
8. Bonus question: Who was president when it became our National Anthem? _____
9. Bonus question: How many years were between the time the poem was written until it became the National Anthem?