

# Star Spangled Inspiration

SLIDE NAVIGATION

1

2

3

4

5

6

Next

## 1. Question & Research Task

**Do you know what it means to be patriotic?**

Patriotism is defined as having love for or devotion to one's country. When you are a patriotic American, you feel love for America and pride that you are American. Francis Scott Key\* wrote our national anthem *The Star-Spangled Banner*. He may have been feeling patriotic when he wrote the words:

*“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?”*

Recently, athletes have been criticized for protesting during the national anthem. Others claim that protest can be a form of patriotism. Some Americans have also objected to the lyrics in stanzas 3 and 4.

***What is your position on the national anthem?***

**In this Slam Dunk, you will conduct brief, focused research to respond to the inquiry questions:**

**What does it mean to be patriotic? How is patriotism evoked in music?**

**\*If you are prompted to log in to access a database or digital content links, your teacher/librarian can provide login information.**



Select the image above to watch an MSNBC News video about current controversy surrounding the U.S. national anthem.

## 2. Information Sources

Read one of these articles about how the Star-Spangled Banner was composed by Francis Scott Key.

- [The Star Spangled Banner](#) (World Book Student)
- [The Story Behind The Star Spangled Banner](#) (Smithsonian.com)

Look through this list of patriotic songs by other artists.  
Click on the links to learn about them.

- [Battle Hymn of the Republic](#) by Julia Ward Howe – 1861
- [America, The Beautiful](#) by Katharine Lee Bates - 1913
- [This Land is Your Land \(full version\)](#) by Woody Guthrie – 1940
- [Take Me Home, Country Roads](#) – John Denver - 1971
- [Philadelphia Freedom](#) by Elton John - 1975
- [Living in the Promised Land](#) by Willie Nelson – 1986
- [Where The Stars And Stripes And The Eagle Fly](#) by Aaron Tippin - 2001
- [America the Beautiful](#) by [Homeboy Sandman](#) - 2014

\*Many of the songs on this list are available for listening on YouTube; you may access these on a personal device outside of school, or your teacher or librarian can provide access in class.



Select the image above to read the lyrics to  
[The Star Spangled Banner](#)



Listen to Beyoncé singing the national anthem at the 2013 Presidential Inauguration of President Barack Obama. \*YouTube video



### 3. Student Activity

Read an article about the Star-Spangled Banner on Slide 2. Consider what inspired Francis Scott Key to write the song.

Then, choose one of the other patriotic songs from Slide 2.

Use this [graphic organizer](#) to organize your research.



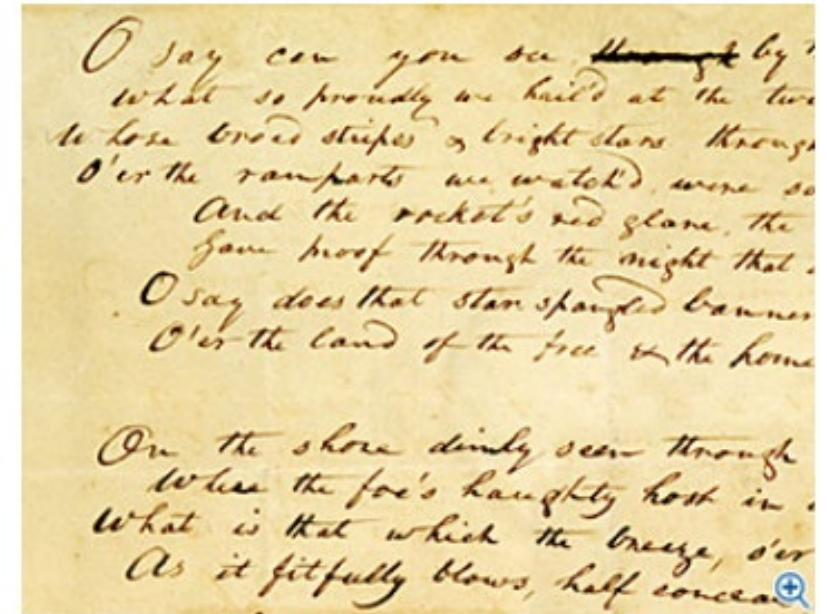
Image Source Microsoft Office

## 4. Assessment Activity

### What does it mean to be patriotic? How is patriotism evoked in music?

Now that you have a broader understanding about [patriotic](#) music, you will use what you have learned to create your own original patriotic anthem. This anthem could be about the **USA**, a **U.S. state** or **city** to which you feel a personal connection, or a **school** anthem. Use these databases or websites to help you gather information about your country, a state, a city, or your school to inspire your lyrics:

- **CultureGrams World Edition** (select the USA) \*Access from [BCPS Digital Content](#)
- **CultureGrams States Edition** (select a U.S. state) \*Access from [BCPS Digital Content](#)
- **World Book Advanced Encyclopedia** \*Access from [BCPS Digital Content](#)
- [Maryland.gov](#) - Official state website
- Your librarian can also help you locate historical information about your school from archives, local newspapers, etc.
- -Write your lyrics using information you found and your own patriotic feelings. You may also put your lyrics to an original melody, sing the song [a capella](#), or play instruments to accompany your lyrics.
- Your finished song may be performed for your teacher and a student audience, or recorded using recording technology of your choice and saved to a file that can be accessed and reviewed by your teacher.
- This [rubric](#) will be used to assess your completed anthem.



#### Key's Manuscript

This is the earliest known manuscript of Key's song. It is probably one of several drafts that Key made before sending the copy to the printer.

Image Source: Smithsonian



## 5. Enrichment Activities

SLIDE NAVIGATION

1

2

3

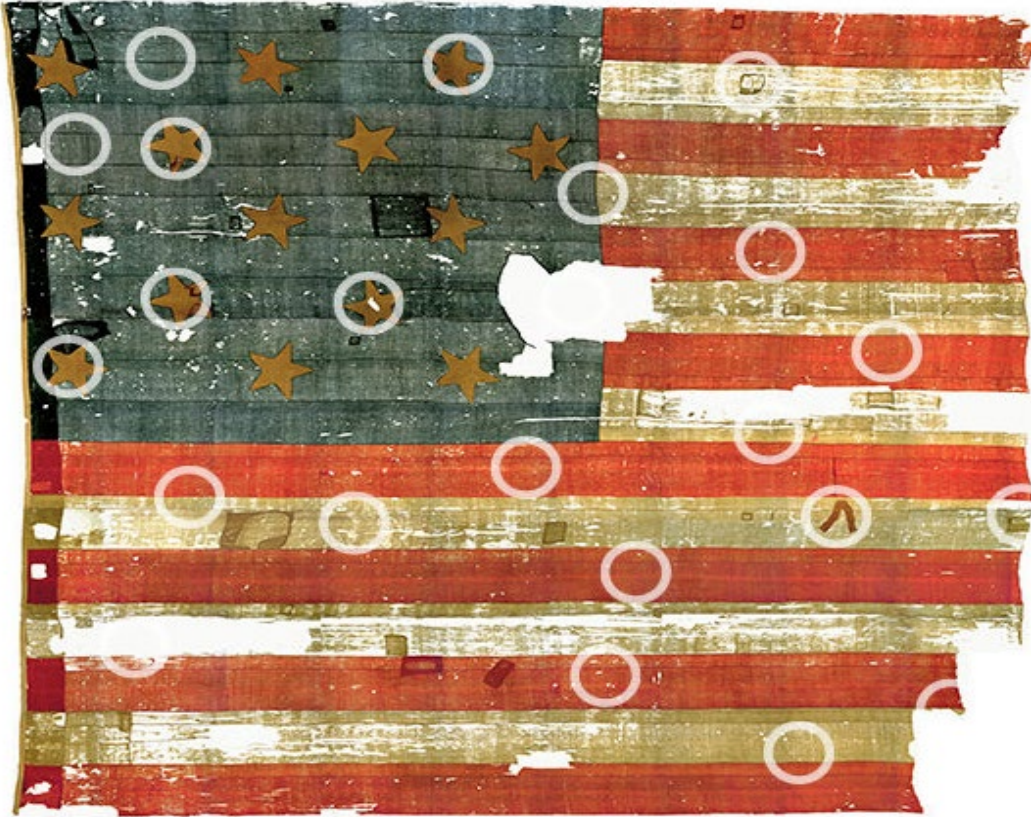
4

5

6

Next

### Interactive Flag



Click the image on the left to visit an [interactive flag website from the Smithsonian](#).

Open the hotspots to learn what makes this flag special to so many Americans, and how the National Museum of American History is working to preserve it for future generations.

Image Source: Smithsonian

# 6. Teacher Resources

## Learning Standards Alignment

### Maryland Fine Arts Standards for Music

Indicator 7A: Select music and describe, citing evidence, how personal interests, experiences and purposes influence musical choice.

Indicator 7B: Demonstrate and describe, citing evidence, how responses to music are informed by structure, use of musical elements and context (social, cultural, and historical).

Indicator 9A: Describe personal evaluation of musical works or performances based on criteria, using appropriate musical vocabulary.

Indicator 11A: Describe and justify how music is a form of personal communication and expression.

Indicator 11B: Describe and explain factors that impact the role of music in the lives of people.

### Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy

**Reading: 1.** Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

**Writing: 7.** Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

**AASL Standards Framework for Learners** Inquire: Build new knowledge by inquiring, thinking critically, identifying problems, and developing strategies for solving problems.

Think: Learners display curiosity and initiative by:

I.A.2 Recalling prior and background knowledge as context for new meaning.

Create: Learners engage with new knowledge by following a process that includes:

I.B.1 Using evidence to investigate questions. I.B.3 Generating products that illustrate learning.

Share: Learners adapt, communicate, and exchange learning products with others in a cycle that includes:

I.C.1 Interacting with content presented by others.

Grow: Learners participate in an ongoing inquiry-based process by:

I.D.2 Engaging in sustained inquiry.

### P21 Framework: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Student Outcomes

**3. Information, Media & Technology Skills: Information Literacy:** Access information efficiently and effectively; Use information accurately and creatively for the issue or problem at hand.

**ICT Literacy:** Use technology as a tool to research, organize, evaluate and communicate information.

## SLIDE NAVIGATION

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
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## Grade 8 American Music: Patriotic Music

**Objective:** Students will conduct brief, focused research in order to explain how patriotism is reflected in music and apply their learning to create an original patriotic song.

**Time Frame:** 2-4 class periods

### Differentiation strategies for this lesson:

Have students use learning supports provided in any [BCPS-licensed Digital Content](#) included in this lesson. Refer to [Digital Content Snapshots & Support resources](#) for guidance as needed.

### Notes to the teacher:

- Collaborate with your school library media specialist to plan and implement this lesson.
- The [YouTube video](#) of Beyoncé singing the National Anthem (and audio/video recordings of songs listed on Slide 2 which may also be available on YouTube) may be played for students by the teacher or librarian, or students can access them from provided links.
- Consider [using the Schoology Assignment Apps feature](#) to assign Microsoft and Google documents and files for students to access, edit, and submit through Schoology.

Last updated: July 2023 Report broken links to BCPS Library Media Programs using the [Library Media Broken Links Form](#).

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