

TRY THIS AT HOME!

Do you know the "Star-Spangled Banner?" Can you sing the first verse? **FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW AND SING IT OUT!**

THE TRUE STORY OF THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

THE YEAR WAS 1814. The United States was at war with Britain, trying to prove its strength as an independent country. It was called The War of 1812, but it had stretched into years of battles. For the first few years, things were going in America's favor, but in 1814 it looked like the British were winning. They marched into Washington and set fire to the White House and the Capitol building.

Next, the British turned toward Maryland. Their goal was to take **BALTIMORE, AN IMPORTANT SEAPORT.** If the British took control of Baltimore harbor, America would be in big trouble because the British would control many of the goods and supplies going into and out of the country. The people of the United States were nervous and scared.

On September 13, 1814, British warships began bombing Baltimore's **FORT MCHENRY.** The fort, which was the only thing stopping the British from entering the city of Baltimore, was under fire for 25 hours straight!

Onboard one of the British ships was an American lawyer named **FRANCIS SCOTT KEY.** He had boarded the ship in order to convince the British to release an American prisoner. He was now stuck on the ship. All he could do was watch the attack on Fort McHenry from the ship's deck.

By the "dawn's early light" of the next morning, Key gazed out across the water and, to his great surprise, he spotted the American flag flying above Fort McHenry.

That meant the fort had not been taken over by the British—**IT HAD NOT SURRENDED!** America would survive this war!

Key was so inspired by the sight of the flag waving in the distance that he wrote a song on the back of a letter he had in his pocket. Key named the song "The Defence of Fort McHenry." The song was later set to the tune of a popular song of the day and renamed "**THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER.**" It quickly became a hit.

In 1931, well over a hundred years after it was written, the "Star-Spangled Banner" was officially named the national anthem of the United States by President Woodrow Wilson.

SING IT LOUD!

O say can you
 by the dawn's early
 What so proudly we hail'd at the
 last gleaming,
 Whose broad and bright
 through the perilous fight
 O'er the ramparts we
 were so gallantly streaming?
 And the red glare,
 the bombs in air,
 Gave proof through the
 that our flag was still
 O does that
 star-spangled banner
 O'er the land of the
 and the home of the ?



TRY THIS AT HOME!

Quick! Take a **POP QUIZ** to see what you really know about the flag of the United States, and **DESIGN YOUR OWN FLAG.**

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?



CHECK OUT THE US FLAG AS IT LOOKS TODAY.

Yes, you've probably seen it a thousand times, but have you ever looked at it really closely?

DESIGN A FLAG TO REPRESENT YOU!



COLORS OF YOU!

WHAT COLORS WILL YOU USE? COLORS CAN HAVE MEANING, TOO. AT RIGHT ARE SOME MEANINGS CONNECTED TO COLORS.

RED—ENERGY, STRENGTH, POWER, LOVE

ORANGE—ENTHUSIASM, CHEERFULNESS, CREATIVITY

YELLOW—ENERGY, JOY, HAPPINESS, OPTIMISM

PURPLE—ROYALTY, WEALTH, MAGIC, INDEPENDENCE

BLUE—PEACE, TRUST, LOYALTY, WISDOM, CONFIDENCE

GREEN—GROWTH, WELL-BEING, MONEY, NATURE

WHITE—SAFETY, PURITY, INNOCENCE, PEACE

BLACK—POWER, STRENGTH, ELEGANCE, MYSTERY

SYMBOLS OF YOU!

WHAT SYMBOLS WILL YOU HAVE ON YOUR FLAG? SYMBOLS CAN SHOW A LOT OF THINGS, ABOUT YOU.

SYMBOLS CAN SHOW:

- how many people are in your family
- what you believe or support
- where you live
- what you like
- your age
- or anything else that is important to you

Answers: 1. There are 50 stars on the American flag today, and each represents a state. The last star was added in 1959 when Hawaii became a state. 2. There are 6 white stripes. 3. There are 7 red stripes. The 13 stripes together symbolize the 13 original colonies.

POP QUIZ

1. How many stars are on the flag?.....
2. How many white stripes are on the flag?.....
3. How many red stripes are on the flag?.....