

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Star Spangled Banner Vocabulary and Project

Introduction:

Francis Scott Key was a well-known attorney in his day, but he was also an amateur poet. His most famous poem, written with the tune of a popular British song, was originally entitled “the Defense of Fort M’Henry”. When formally connected to the music, a few days after the battle in 1814, it was rechristened “The Star-Spangled Banner”. Using my web site, listen to the original British song and a 19th-century version of “The Star-Spangled Banner” online. By studying the words of this song – which became our national anthem in 1931 – you will learn vocabulary, paraphrasing, and various poetic devices. You will also have a chance to write original poetry.

Vocabulary: In your notebook, define the following terms from the poem:

Stanza 1
gleaming
rampart
spangled

Stanza 2
haughty
reposes
fitfully
discloses

Stanza 3
vauntingly
havoc
hireling

Stanza 4
desolation

Projects

Select one project from the list below to complete. This will be an independent project with some in class time to get organized and ask questions.

My project selection: _____

Materials Needed: _____

Steps to Completion: _____

Due Date: _____

<p>1. “The Star-Spangled Banner” is a narrative poem since the poet desired to tell a story through verse. What is Francis Scott Key trying to communicate through the poem? To whom do you think he is trying to communicate? If you were trying to tell the story in prose, how would you communicate his intended message? As Francis Scott Key, compose a letter to a neighbor describing the events.</p>	<p>2. Research the War of 1812 and the Battle of Baltimore in 1814. What were the events that led up to the poem? What do you think followed the events of the poem? Write two additional verses, or paragraphs, to add at the beginning and end of the poem that describe the events before and after the poem.</p>	<p>3. Create a scrapbook (3 pages) that a mother of an American soldier at Fort McHenry would have put together.</p>
<p>4. Some politicians and scholars have tried to replace “The Star-Spangled Banner” as the national anthem due to the violent imagery and possible racist reference in the poem. Find the violent imagery in the poem and discuss whether the content of “The Star-Spangled Banner” is appropriate for the national anthem. What is your personal opinion of the anthem’s verse and music? Do you think it is well-written poetry? Why or why not? What about the tune? Write a speech to be given to President and leaders of Congress persuading them to make the change.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Student Choice</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">You may design your own project but get approval before completing.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You may move any project suggestion into this square.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">#_____.</p>	<p>5. “The Star Spangled Banner” is full of dramatic language designed to bring out strong visual images. Key tries to capture moments and thoughts he had during the battle. Create a series of visual art images (paintings, pencil drawings, sculpture, etc.) depicting scenes from each verse of the poem. Minimum of four images.</p>
<p>6. Create your own poem that expresses your feelings about the United States or about a historic event. You should incorporate some of the poetic devices used by Key in “The Star-Spangled Banner”, such as alliteration or personification. Did you notice that Key did not use any <i>metaphors</i> or <i>similes</i>? Look up metaphor and simile in the dictionary or online if you are unfamiliar with these terms. See if you can use these poetic devices in your own poem.</p>	<p>7. Paraphrase “The Star-Spangled Banner” into your own words.</p>	<p>8. Each national anthem has its own distinct history and reason for being used as the musical representation of a people and culture. Research the national anthem of a foreign nation and explain the significance of the song to the people it represents. If possible, interview a native of that country about his or her national anthem.</p>

Use these websites to help in your research:

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/militaryhistory/printable/section.asp?id=2>

<http://www.americanhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner>