

#10563

AMERICA'S SONGS OF LIBERTY

NEW DIMENSION MEDIA, 2003

Grade Level: K-6

10 Minutes



CAPTIONED MEDIA PROGRAM RELATED RESOURCES

[#3413 THE STORY OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM](#)

[#10099 THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER](#)

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Grades 1 to 3

America's Songs of Liberty

Primary Citizenship Series

Subject Areas: Social Studies, U.S. History, Citizenship, Music

Synopsis: Kyle, the young narrator, goes to a baseball game dedicated to people with disabilities. After Timmy Kelly, a young blind singer, performs *The Star-Spangled Banner*, Kyle tells the story of Francis Scott Key writing our national anthem as he watched the Battle of Baltimore. Kyle defines some of the difficult words and phrases in the song. He also shares the histories of *My Country 'Tis of Thee*, *America the Beautiful*, and *This Land is Your Land*. The words of each song appear on-screen as the song is performed.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to recall the circumstances under which Francis Scott Key wrote *The Star-Spangled Banner*
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to define difficult words and phrases in *The Star-Spangled Banner*
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to identify other patriotic songs, including *My Country 'Tis of Thee*, *America the Beautiful*, and *This Land is Your Land* and recall the circumstances under which these songs were written

Pre-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

Think about national songs, your state song, school song, special group songs, etc. Why do we sing these songs? How do you feel when you sing or hear these songs? What is your favorite patriotic song?

Vocabulary: liberty, disabilities, wheelchair, blind, sign language, national anthem, ideals, perilous fight, ramparts, patriotic, majesty, melody, folk songs, amber

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) When was *The Star-Spangled Banner* written? What inspired Francis Scott Key to write it? Why do we sing the national anthem? When do we sing it? What do you think about when you hear it? Was it first written as a song or a poem?
- 2) Who wrote *My Country 'Tis of Thee*? When was the melody to this song written? What other country has adopted the melody for its national anthem?
- 3) When did Katherine Lee Bates write *America the Beautiful*? Where was she when she got the idea for the song? Have you ever seen “amber waves of grain” or “purple mountains”? In what parts of the United States would you probably see them? Why do they describe certain regions of our country?
- 4) What kind of music did Woody Guthrie write? What kind of people did he usually write about in his songs? What do you think about when you hear *This Land is Your Land*? What places are mentioned in this song? Point out these places out on the map.

- 5) Both *This Land is Your Land* and *America the Beautiful* describe places in the United States. What different kinds of environments are there in this country? Describe the different regions of the United States. The United States has a lot of different environments, and also a lot of different kinds of people. How do the differences in the environments and the differences in the people of the United States make this a special country?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Go over the lyrics to *The Star-Spangled Banner* in class, defining any words or phrases students do not understand. The entire poem by Francis Scott Key is available at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/ssb/>.
- 2) Compare the lyrics of *My Country 'Tis of Thee* with the British national anthem *God Save the King/Queen*. The lyrics are available at <http://www.copsrus.com/anthems/uk.html>.
- 3) *The Star-Spangled Banner* and *My Country 'Tis of Thee* are both poems that were set to music after they became popular. Have students write their own poems about the United States. Try setting them to music. Is this easy or hard to do? Why?
- 4) For additional information about the *Star-Spangled Banner*, please visit the *Star-Spangled Banner* site of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, <http://americanhistory.si.edu/ssb/>. This site includes additional information about the poem, song, and flag.

Related New Dimension Media Titles:

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- We Pledge Allegiance
- We Become Citizens
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- America's National Holidays
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A QUESTAR COMPANY

www.ndmquestar.com

680 N. Lake Shore Drive, Suite 900, Chicago, IL 60611

800.288.4456