

Star Spangled Karaoke

Directions:

Have you ever sung the words to or hummed a few bars of the “Star Spangled Banner”?

Did you know that Francis Scott Key wrote the words to the “Star Spangled Banner” in 1814 during the War of 1812, but it was not officially adopted as the United States National Anthem until 1931?

Have you ever wondered why the “Star Spangled Banner” is the United States National Anthem?

Do you know what the lyrics are about or the history behind them?

Can you sing them from memory right now? Me neither, but you’re going to visit a web site where you can read the lyrics and listen to the music at the same time. This web site also has a brief history behind the lyrics and how the “Star Spangled Banner” became our national anthem.

Before you read and listen to the “Star Spangled Banner”, start by learning the history behind our national anthem.

Step 1- Read the history of the “Star Spangled Banner”:

<http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/lyrics/spangle.htm#history>

After reading the history of Francis Scott Key’s poem, it is time to play a little Star Spangled Karaoke.

Step 2 – Read the lyrics of the “Star Spangled Banner” while you listen to the music (the music will automatically start playing when you visit the web site). Try singing the lyrics as the music plays.

<http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/lyrics/spangle.htm>

How did you do? Are you ready to perform at the start of the next Twins game? Me neither, but I do like to sing and hum along as it is being played.

So what does all of this mean?

Researchers have found that national anthems provoke pride and nationalism when people sing them or even just hear them being played (Gilboa & Bodner, 2009). How did reading the United States National Anthem make you feel?

Step 3 – Write a 20-30 word discussion post that describes your personal reaction to reading the “Star Spangled Banner” lyrics. How did they make you feel?

Did reading the history behind Francis Scott Key’s lyrics change your perception of the message of the national anthem? Does the “Star Spangled Banner” have a message for citizens? How do you think immigrants new to the United States feel when they hear the national anthem? If national anthems provoke nationalism and pride in citizenship, will a new immigrant know what being a United States citizen means?

Step 4 – In a 100 word discussion post describe for an immigrant new to the United States define U.S. citizenship and explain what being a U.S. citizen means to you.

Objectives:

The student will express in writing their emotional reaction after reading the lyrics of the “Star Spangled Banner”, the U.S. National Anthem.

The student will summarize in writing what it means to be a U.S. citizen.

Grade Level: 9-12

Standards:

MN Standard VII. Government and Citizenship, A. Civic Values, Skills, Rights and Responsibilities: The student will know how citizenship is defined, established, and exercised and how it has changed over time. 1. Students will define citizenship and describe the processes by which individuals become United States citizens.

Resources:

“Star Spangled Banner” lyrics and music: <http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/lyrics/spangle.htm>

“Star Spangled Banner” history: <http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/lyrics/spangle.htm#history>

Gilboa, A & Bodner, E., “What are your thoughts when the national anthem is playing? An empirical exploration”, *Psychology of Music*, Vol. 37, No. 4, 459-484 (2009)

DOI: 10.1177/0305735608097249