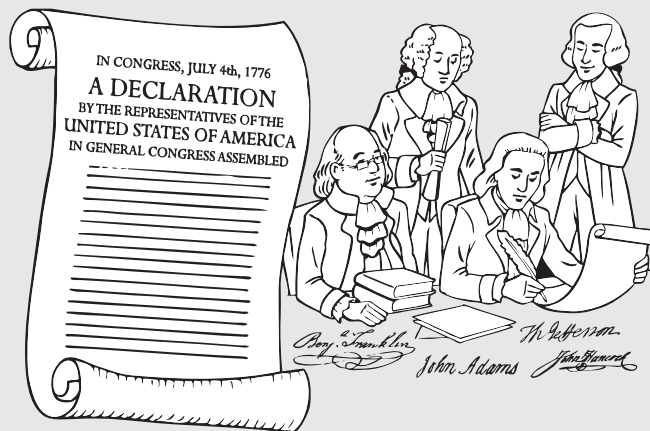


Independence Day

July 4

Independence Day, also called the Fourth of July, is the day on which Americans celebrate declaring their independence from Great Britain in 1776. Up until this time, America was a collection of colonies that were under the rule of Great Britain. On July 4, 1776, the colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a document written by Thomas Jefferson, which states that the colonies no longer recognize the rule of Great Britain and King George III and now consider themselves to be a separate and independent nation.



Summary of Activities

Reading: Literature

National Anthems—poetry with a compare-and-contrast activity

Reading: Informational Text

Fort McHenry—nonfiction passage with comprehension questions

Writing

Independence Day Fun—activity in which students write their favorite things to do on Independence Day

Bonus

Decorate Your Bike—activity in which students decorate “bikes” in honor of Independence Day

Vocabulary: defiance, hallowed, impressment, ramparts



Name _____

Date _____

National Anthems

Directions: Read the national anthems. Then complete the activity on page 76.

"The Star Spangled Banner" (United States)

*Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*



"God Save the Queen" (Great Britain)

*God save our gracious queen,
Long live our noble queen!
God save the queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the queen.

Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour,
Long may she reign.
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause,
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the queen.*

"My Homeland, My Homeland" (Egypt)

*My homeland, my homeland, my hallowed land,
Only to you, is my due hearty love at command,
My homeland, my homeland, my hallowed land,
Only to you is my due hearty love at command.

Mother of the great ancient land,
My sacred wish and holy demand,
All should love, awe, and cherish thee,
Gracious is thy Nile to humanity,
No evil hand can harm or do you wrong,
So long as your free sons are strong,
My homeland, my homeland, my hallowed land,
Only to you, is my due hearty love at command.*

"March of the Volunteers" (China)

*Arise, ye who refuse to be slaves;
With our very flesh and blood
Let us build our new Great Wall.
The peoples of China are in the most critical time.
Everybody must roar his defiance.
Arise! Arise! Arise!
Millions of hearts with one mind
Brave the enemy's gunfire, march on!
Brave the enemy's gunfire, march on!
March on! March on! On!*





Name _____

Date _____

National Anthems *(cont.)*

Directions: Read the national anthems on page 75. Select two of them to compare and contrast in the graphic organizer. Consider themes, sensory words, and tone.

_____	_____
Anthem Name	Anthem Name



Name _____

Date _____

Fort McHenry

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions on page 78.

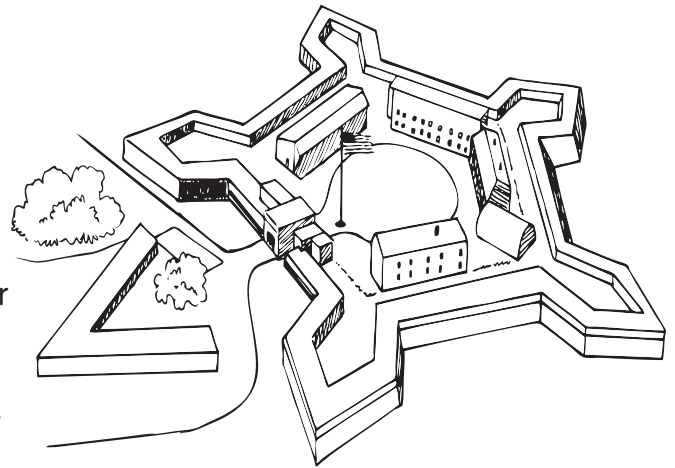
Fort McHenry has a special place in American history. It was the very location that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the famous lyrics to our national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner."

Between June 1812 and February 1815, the United States was involved in its second war with Great Britain. This war is known as the War of 1812.

The United States declared war on Great Britain for several reasons. Great Britain was supporting tribes of Native Americans that opposed the westward expansion of the United States. Another issue was that American merchant seamen were being captured by the British on the high seas and forced to fight in the British Navy. This is called *impressment*.

The War of 1812 was fought in and around the Great Lakes close to the Canadian border, in the southern states, and also in the Atlantic Ocean, along the eastern seaboard of the United States. This is where Fort McHenry enters the picture.

Fort McHenry is located in Baltimore, Maryland. It overlooks the Chesapeake Bay. If you know your U.S. geography, then you know that this location is very close to our nation's capitol, Washington, D.C. This is why, during the War of 1812, the British Navy had their sights set on Fort McHenry.



On September 14 at 6:00 a.m., the British ships began to aim and shoot their cannons at Fort McHenry. The soldiers stationed at the fort returned fire, but the American cannons did not have the same range as the British cannons that were onboard their ships. As a result, Fort McHenry was pummeled with cannon fire for 25 hours. Fortunately, although the British cannons had a longer range than their American counterparts, they were very inaccurate, so Fort McHenry did not sustain much damage.

Key was a lawyer from Washington, D.C. He watched the entire battle of Fort McHenry from a nearby ship. What he saw inspired him to write a poem called the "Defense of Fort McHenry." One thing in particular that captured Key's imagination was that during the entire bombardment, the American flag continued to wave over the fort. This is evidenced in the lines:

"And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there."

Key's poem was set to music and renamed "The Star Spangled Banner." It was adopted officially as our national anthem in 1931.



Name _____

Date _____

Fort McHenry (cont.)

Directions: Read the passage on page 77. Then answer the questions.

1. Underline the sentence in the passage that helps you understand the meaning of the word *impressment*.
2. Why was the British Navy so interested in Fort McHenry?
 - a. It was filled with gold bars.
 - b. It was close to Washington, D.C.
 - c. It held British prisoners of war.
3. In the space below, write what is meant by these two lines:
"And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there."

Date _____

For most Americans, Independence Day is a day of summer activity and fun. The weather is usually nice, the grills are going, and there are fireworks wherever you go at night. In the space below, write about what you love to do on Independence Day.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Name _____

Date _____

Decorate Your Bike

In many places all over the United States, it is a tradition for children to decorate their bikes for Independence Day. Use crayons (make sure you have red, white, and blue) and other craft supplies to decorate the bike below in honor of Independence Day.

