

Banner's Story

Trace how a wartime poem became the national anthem.

5.16.B "sing or recite "The Star-Spangled Banner" and explain its history;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number, in order, the four sentences that say British ships attacked Fort McHenry, Key saw the flag through the night, a newspaper printed the poem, and Congress named the anthem. These details show how the song's history unfolded.

From Fort Flag to Anthem

- ① In September 1814, during the War of 1812, British ships attacked Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland. Francis Scott Key watched the attack from a British ship, where he was being held after helping arrange the release of a prisoner. Through the night, he saw the fort's large American flag still flying. At dawn, the flag showed that the fort had not surrendered.
- ② Key wrote a poem about what he had seen, calling it "Defence of Fort M'Henry." A Baltimore newspaper printed the poem soon afterward. People began singing its words to the tune of a well-known English song. Over time, the poem became known as "The Star-Spangled Banner." Americans sang it at public events and military ceremonies for many years.
- ③ In 1931, Congress passed a law naming "The Star-Spangled Banner" the national anthem of the United States. When you sing or recite it, you can listen for words about the flag, rockets, and dawn. The song remembers a difficult night and a flag that remained in place. Its history connects one wartime event to a national symbol.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What did British ships attack in September 1814?

2 What did the flag at dawn show about Fort McHenry?

3 What happened to Key's poem after he wrote it? Give two details.

4 What did Congress do in 1931, and why was that important?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that you could say before reciting "The Star-Spangled Banner." Tell where and when the event happened, what Key saw, and how the song became the national anthem.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Number, in order, the four sentences that say British ships attacked Fort McHenry, Key saw the flag through the night, a newspaper printed the poem, and Congress named the anthem. These details show how the song's history unfolded. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did British ships attack in September 1814?	Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland.
2	What did the flag at dawn show about Fort McHenry?	It showed that the fort had not surrendered.
3	What happened to Key's poem after he wrote it? Give two details.	A Baltimore newspaper printed it, and people began singing its words to the tune of a well-known English song. It later became known as "The Star-Spangled Banner."
4	What did Congress do in 1931, and why was that important?	Congress passed a law naming "The Star-Spangled Banner" the national anthem of the United States. This made it the country's official national anthem.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In September 1814, British ships attacked Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. Francis Scott Key saw the American flag still flying after the attack and wrote a poem about it. People sang his poem for years, and Congress made it the national anthem in 1931.

Accept equivalent wording that accurately identifies the British attack on Fort McHenry, the flag's meaning, the poem's publication and use as a song, and the 1931 law. For Your Turn, accept three sentences that include all three required historical ideas in a clear introduction.