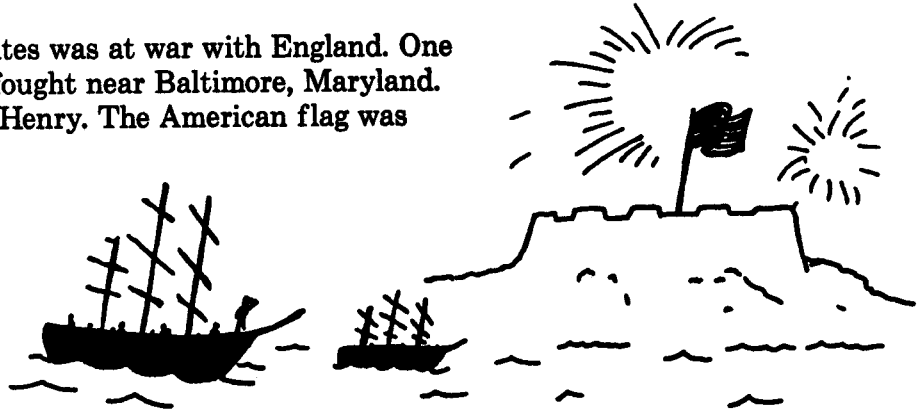
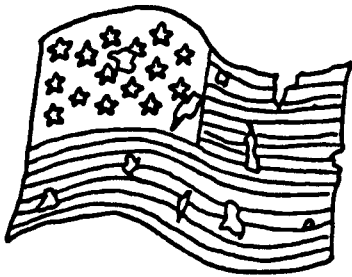


THE STORY OF THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

1. In 1814, the United States was at war with England. One terrible battle of the war was fought near Baltimore, Maryland. The English attacked Fort McHenry. The American flag was flying on the fort.



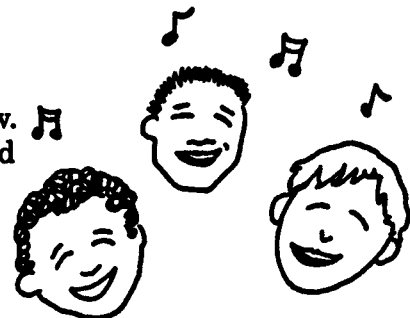
2. Francis Scott Key was an American. He was on a warship. He saw the flag before the sun went down. He watched the battle all night. It was dark, but rockets and bombs were exploding. Sometimes he could see the flag by the light from the bombs and rockets.



3. In the early morning the battle was over. Francis Scott Key looked for the flag. Was it still there? Yes it was. The flag was still waving. It had eleven holes in it, but it was still waving.

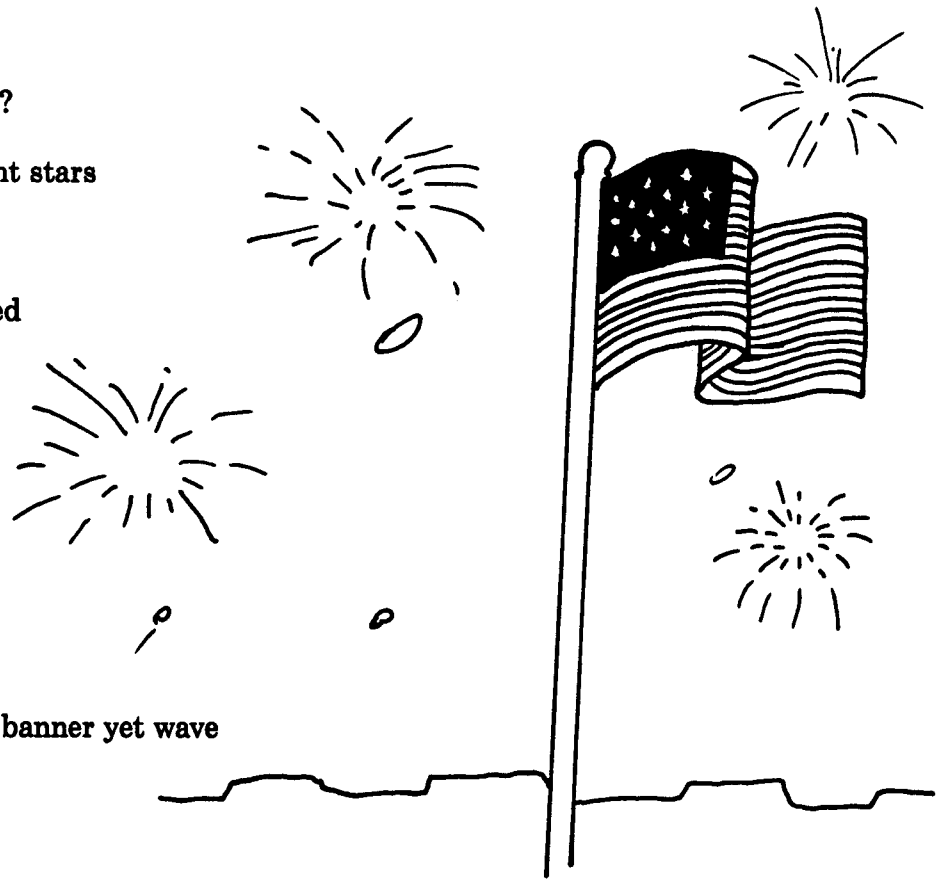
4. He was very happy. He wrote a poem. This poem told the feelings of the Americans.

5. The words of the poem fit the music of a song that people knew. People liked Key's song about the "star spangled banner." They started to sing the new words. Congress made this song the National Anthem. This is the official song of the United States.



THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

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
Through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we'd watched
Were so gallantly streaming.
And the rocket's red glare,
The bombs bursting in air
Gave proof through the night
That our flag was still there.
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free
And the home of the brave?



THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER: EXERCISES AND ACTIVITIES

- I. Do you know these words? Find these words in the story. Draw a line under them. Copy the words. Write the meanings.

star-spangled	wave	gleam/gleaming
banner	hole	broad
war	win/won	stripes
terrible	poem	perilous
battle	feelings	rampart
fight/fought	song	gallant/gallantly
attack/attacked	national anthem	streaming
fort	official	glare
warship	dawn	o'er
rocket	proud/proudly	land
bomb	hail	free
explode	twilight	brave

- II. Find a word in "The Star-Spangled Banner" that means the same as:

1. sunrise _____
2. sunset _____
3. wide _____
4. dangerous _____
5. walls of a fort _____
6. bravely _____
7. flying (as a flag) _____
8. bright light _____
9. exploding _____

- III. What is "the land of the free, the home of the brave"?
-

- IV. Activities:

1. Practice reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Learn the proper way to fold a flag.
3. Draw the flag of your country and display it.
4. Sing your national anthem or bring in a recording of it.