



NSDAR Educational Resources Committee
“Tennessee State Standards for General Music”
Lesson Plan

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Grade Level: Pre-K-5th

1. Identify the standards to be addressed:

5.GM.R1.1 Demonstrate and explain, citing evidence, how selected music connects to and is influenced by specific interests, experiences, purposes, or contexts.

5.GM.Cn1.A Demonstrate how interests, knowledge, and skills relate to personal choices and intent when creating, performing, and responding to music.

2. Statement of the objective and lesson outcomes:

Students will be presented the history of the “Star Spangled Banner” by Francis Scott Key and provided with the lyrics to our National Anthem. Through discussion and teacher led activities, students will understand more fully the meaning behind the lyrics, the roots of the melody and the Battle of Fort McHenry.

3. Materials, resources, and technology to be used by teacher/students:

For those not comfortable with the theater involved in teaching class as Francis Scott Key, I have included several resources that provide all the information necessary to tell the story:

<https://www.sutori.com/story/the-story-behind-the-song-the-star-spangled-banner--yvKt2fv5vrZJ7gZ1f1bgMUo2>

<https://www.history.com/topics/19th-century/the-star-spangled-banner>

And this video clip which tells the story and is age appropriate for the class to watch, if you prefer: <http://www.watchknowlearn.org/Video.aspx?VideoID=2570&CategoryID=3499>

Lyrics and music for the first verse of “The Star-Spangled Banner” from a free source: <https://www.music-for-music-teachers.com/support-files/star-spangled-banner-bb.pdf>

Links for singing the “Star Spangled Banner”

*This is a YouTube link and includes a patriotic video along with the lyrics and music.

<https://youtu.be/vPKp29Lury>

*Audio only mp3 of the Star-Spangled Banner with no lyrics.

<https://www.karaoke-version.com/free/national-anthem/the-star-spangled-banner.html>

4. Introduction of the topic:

If teaching this without “Mr. Keys” assistance, teacher may use the introduction provided adjusting as necessary. Our national anthem, “The Star-Spangled Banner”, has a very interesting and dramatic history. In fact, it did not even begin as our official national anthem, its roots are found in a poem, “The Defense of Fort McHenry” written by none other than me, Francis Scott Key under very dangerous circumstances.

5. **Procedure for instruction:**

Part 1: Teachers not portraying Francis Scott Key in character, will now use material from one of the previous links to share the history of the “Star Spangled Banner” or, let students watch the video. If “in character”, present the information you have gained from the material to the students as Francis ScottKey.

Part 2: “Mr. Key” may depart at this point or continue teaching the lesson. Following the video, or story, explore further the transformation of the “The Defense of Fort McHenry” to “The Star-Spangled Banner” discussing the fact that the poem became much more popular when the people of the time took the words of the poem and set them to the music of a well-known song. **Additional information available to teachers in the printable pages.

Part 3: Provide each student their own copy of the “Star Spangled Banner” music and lyrics. Provided in #4. Utilizing one of the links provided in #4, have students sing the “Star Spangled Banner.

6. **Lesson closure:**

Class discussion

Encourage students to participate in a teacher led discussion by presenting the following questions:

If “The Defense of Fort McHenry” was written today, what current well-known song melody could be used with the words to help it gain more popularity?

Can you think of an event in the last 25 years that might have provided the background for a patriotic poem or song?

What is your favorite line from the “Star Spangled Banner”?

7. **Assessment of student understanding:**

If students have participated in a discussion that makes it possible for them to demonstrate mastery of the subject matter through their responses, a written assessment may not be necessary. Should a written assessment be needed, the teacher may use one of the two assessments included with this plan.