

The Story of the Star-Spangled Banner

WebQuest Description: Learn about how the American National Anthem was born!

Grade Level: 3-5

Curriculum: Social Studies

Keywords: Star-Spangled Banner, National Anthem, Flag, America, Patriotic, Francis Scott Key, Mary Pickersgill, Flag Etiquette

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Introduction

Have you ever read a newspaper article? Understanding and keeping up-to-date on current events is an important part of being an informed citizen. Do you know how America's National Anthem was created? You will use this Web Quest to research some information about the story of the Star-Spangled Banner. You will use the provided websites to answer the questions on your handout. After researching about the story of the Star-Spangled Banner, you will assume the role of a newspaper reporter. You will write a journal entry about your journey to Fort McHenry, as a reporter, and document how simple/difficult it was to find information about this topic. After writing your reflections you will need to design, write and publish an article about what you discovered about how the Star-Spangled Banner was created. By completing this Web Quest you will have learned about what was going on during the time Francis Scott Key drafted his poem as well as learn how to write a newspaper article.

Tasks

EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!! You are a journalist for the Baltimore Patriot and you have been assigned to write a newspaper article about the "Defense of Fort McHenry." You must travel to Baltimore, Maryland and visit Fort McHenry to gather information about what happened while the British were attacking the fort. While you are there you must document your findings and write a journal entry about your trip. When you return home, you will be required to design, write and publish an article to be published in the Baltimore Patriot Newspaper.

Process

Before you begin researching about how the Star-Spangled Banner was created, you will be handed a packet that you will use to complete this Web Quest. News reporters take notes while they research to write down the questions they have and the answers they find. 1. An Overview of the Story of the Star-Spangled Banner You are now going to research some background information about America's flag and the Star-Spangled Banner. While you visit this website make sure to answer these questions in your handout. What war was going on when the flag was made? Where did the flag fly? Why is the flag important? Who wrote the song The Star-Spangled Banner? 2. Pack your bags you are traveling to Fort McHenry! You need to be careful because the Battle of Baltimore is occurring! While you visit this website make sure to answer these questions in your handout. Where is Fort McHenry? What happened at the Battle of Baltimore? 3. While you were visiting Fort McHenry you stumbled into Francis Scott Key. While you visit this website make sure to answer these questions in your handout. Who was Francis Scott Key? Why is he important to the story? 4. What happened to the Star-Spangled Banner after the Battle of Baltimore? While you visit this website make sure to answer these questions in your handout. What happened to the flag after the War of 1812? How did it get to the Smithsonian Institution? 5. Just as you were going to return home after your trip to Fort McHenry, you met Mary Pickersgill and she was making a flag!!! While you visit this website make sure to answer these questions in your handout. Why did Mary Pickersgill make the flag? How was the flag made? What did the flag look like? 6. Click here to see the how the original Flag looked like. 7. Pack your bags! You are coming home! 8. Welcome Home! You did a great job researching! Now you are ready to write your reflections about how your journey to Fort McHenry as a Baltimore Patriot reporter. Write how simple/difficult it was to find information about how the Star-Spangled Banner was born. Please use the Journal Entry template in your packet to write your reflections. Make sure to add details about what you learned from your trip to Fort McHenry and any interesting facts you discovered and any interesting people you met. 9. Wow! You are almost finished! Now you need to finish writing your article. You will publish it in the Baltimore Patriot Newspaper. You will use this website to help you design, write and publish your article. Make sure you use some of the important facts that you researched in your article. [You may use the Newspaper Article template in your packet to brainstorm.] 10. Once you finish writing your article, make sure to PRINT it on the Printing Press. 11. Great job! You have completed all of the tasks! Make sure you tell the teacher when you are finished and hand in your work.

Evaluation

YOU ARE ALMOST FINISHED! Don't forget to hand in your packet to your teacher! You will be graded on how complete your packet is [documentation of findings, journal entry and newspaper article]. The following rubric explains how you will be graded for each task.

Category and Score	Intern	Reporter	Bureau Editor	Editor In Chief	Score
Activity 1: Locates information from a variety of sources	Uses at least one source to locate information and 7 of the 13 questions are completed [2 points]	Uses at least 2-3 sources to locate information and 9 of the 13 questions are completed [4 points]	Uses at least 3-4 sources to locate information and 11 of the 13 questions are completed [6 points]	Uses all the sources provided to locate information and all questions are completed [8 points]	8
Activity 2: Journal Entry Reflection	The journal contains a brief reflection from their simulated journey, but does not mention any details or important people. [2 points]	The journal contains a brief reflection from their simulated journey, but only mentions 1-2 details and 1 important person. [4 points]	The journal contains a brief reflection from their simulated journey, but only mentions 2-3 details and important people. [6 points]	The journal contains a brief reflection from their simulated journey what was discovered, the people they met and gave 3 or more details as to how they felt by participating in this journey. [8 points]	8
Activity 3: uses all components of a newspaper article appropriately [headline, byline, article, image, caption]	uses 1-2 components appropriately [2 points]	uses 2-3 components appropriately [4 points]	uses 3-4 components appropriately [6 points]	uses all components appropriately [8 points]	8
Overall completeness of assignments	The student completed only 1 activity and was showed little effort while completing the Web Quest. [2 points]	The student completed only 2 activities and showed somewhat of an effort in completing the Web Quest. [4 points]	The student completed 3 activities and was engaged however, they did not legibly fill out the packet. [6 points]	The student completed all 3 activities and showed great effort while completing the Web Quest and their packet was very neat and legible. [8 points]	8
				Total Score	32

Conclusion

CONGRATULATIONS! You have now completed your Reporting Assignment. Now you know the story of how the Star-Spangled Banner was created. You are also able to identify who wrote the Star-Spangled Banner and discuss what was occurring during that time in history. Below you will find two links where you can listen to the Star-Spangled Banner and enjoy the lyrics.

Teacher Page

This Web Quset was created to teach students about how America's National Anthem was created and the importance of research, documentation and publication.

Standards

Curriculum Standards

6.3 Active Citizenship in the 21st Century All students will acquire the skills needed to be active, informed citizens who value diversity and promote cultural understanding by working collaboratively to address the challenges that are inherent in living in an interconnected world.

- Civics, Government, and Human Rights

Social Studies Skills

Chronological Thinking

- Explain how major events are related to one another in time.

Critical Thinking

- Compare and contrast differing interpretations of current and historical events.

Presentation Skills

- Select and analyze information from a variety of sources to present a reasoned argument or position in a written and/or oral format.

Credits

THANK YOU! :)

Other