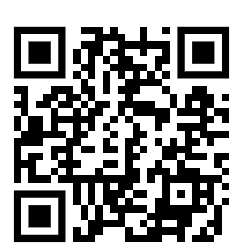
**M1: THE NATIONAL ANTHEM OF THE USA: THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER**



video (1): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyGseT2Fiqo> (with pictures)

video (2): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqxJ_iuBPCs> (long version)

**Step 1:**

Watch the first version of “The Star-Spangled Banner” and explain to what extent the musical arrangement (voice, instruments, speed, …) and the pictures influence your impressions of the American national anthem.

These expressions might help you:

**dawn** = the first light or beginning of the day; **twilight** = the last light of the day; **perilous** = dangerous; **rampart** = barricade;

**Step 2:**

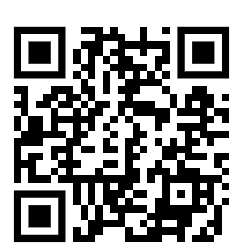
Now focus on the text (ll. 1-8). Compare your first impressions to how you feel about these lyrics. Give evidence (quotes, lines) to explain your considerations.

**Step 3:**

Discuss whether a text like this is still appropriate today – especially for a country like the US.

Extra task: You may take the “long version” (ll.1-32) into account as well.

Auf dieser Seite wird Software / werden Dienste / Videos vorgestellt, bei denen Daten auf externen Servern verarbeitet werden können. Die Nutzung ist für Sie freiwillig. Bei der Verwendung von Daten Dritter sind die rechtlichen Rahmenbedingungen zu beachten.



**M1: The Star-Spangled Banner (official national anthem)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyGseT2Fiqo> (with pictures) or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqxJ_iuBPCs> (long version)

Auf dieser Seite wird Software / werden Dienste / Videos vorgestellt, bei denen Daten auf externen Servern verarbeitet werden können. Die Nutzung ist für Sie freiwillig. Bei der Verwendung von Daten Dritter sind die rechtlichen Rahmenbedingungen zu beachten.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5  10  15  20  25  30 | Oh, say can you see, by the dawn’s1 early light,  What so proudly we hailed2 at the twilight3’s last gleaming4?  Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous5 fight,  O’er the ramparts6 we watched were so gallantly7 streaming?  And the rocket’s 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?  On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,  Where the foe’s8 haughty host in dread silence reposes9,  What is that which the breeze, o’er the towering steep10,  As it fitfully blows, half conceals11, half discloses12?  Now it catches the gleam of the morning’s first beam13,  In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:  ‘Tis the star-spangled banner! Oh long may it wave  O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave!  And where is that band who so vauntingly14 swore  That the havoc15 of war and the battle’s confusion,  A home and a country should leave us no more!  Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps’ pollution.  No refuge could save the hireling and slave  From the terror of flight, or the gloom16 of the grave:  And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave!  Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand  Between their loved home and the war’s desolation.17  Blest with victory and peace, may the heav’n rescued land  Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.  Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  And this be our motto: “In God is our trust.”  And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave! | 1 first light of the day  2 to greet 3 opposite of “dawn”  4 to shine 5 dangerous  6 barricade 7 brave  8 enemy 9 to rest  10 steil  11 to cover 12 to uncover  13 light  14 in an arrogant way  15 chaos  16 misery  17 greyness |

**M1: The Star-Spangled Banner (official national anthem):**

**Background information:**

* Official national anthem since 1931; usually only the first part (ll.1-8) is sung.
* Originally a poem entitled "The Defense of Fort McHenry".
* Written by Francis Scott Key in 1814 during the War of 1812.
* The verses tell of the Battle of Baltimore, a days-long siege between British and American forces
* Message: celebration of patriotism; America = land of the free and the brave
* However: controversial for various reasons
  + Francis Scott Key used to be a slaveholder
  + Lyrics very martial: for example l. 5, l. 10, ll.20ff., ll.28f. ( reference to the War of 1812, references to slavery; l. 5 can be misunderstood as an acceptance of rockets etc., also compare ll.28f.)
* There are very specific rules (the “Flag Code”):
  + Everyone is expected to stand and face the flag; military personnel or veterans have to salute, all other people have to stand with the right hand over heart.
  + Singing is not obligatory, but it is highly encouraged.
  + In the past, changing (even embellishing) the anthem in a performance could be punished.
  + In most schools, students do not have to sing the national anthem every day, but are required to say the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of every day
  + The anthem has to be played before all important sports events, some associations like the NFL or NBA explicitly require certain forms of “respect” (In 2016, Colin Kaepernik was the first (NFL) player who was expelled for kneeling down as a form of protest (BLM) while the anthem was played.

Sources:

<https://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2018/07/us/national-anthem-annotated/> (last accessed March 19, 2023);

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-37208404> (last accessed March 19, 2023);

<https://www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/2148/national-anthem-government-regulation#:~:text=Most%20controversies%20centering%20on%20%E2%80%9CThe,anthem%20in%20silent%20protest%20against> (19/02/2023); <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/04/sports/football/anthem-kneeling-sports.html> (last accessed March 19, 2023);

<https://www.republicworld.com/sports-news/other-sports/was-colin-kaepernick-fired-from-the-49ers-nfl-star-cut-ties-with-team.html> (last accessed March 19, 2023)