

World National Anthems

There are 195 official countries in the world, each with their own national song – that's a lot of national anthems!

A national anthem can be a fanfare, a hymn, a march, or a song.

The British national anthem, **God Save The Queen**, is the oldest national anthem, having been performed since 1745.

God Save The Queen

God save our gracious Queen!

Long live our noble Queen!

God save the Queen!

Send her victorious,

Happy and glorious,

Long to reign over us,

God save the Queen.

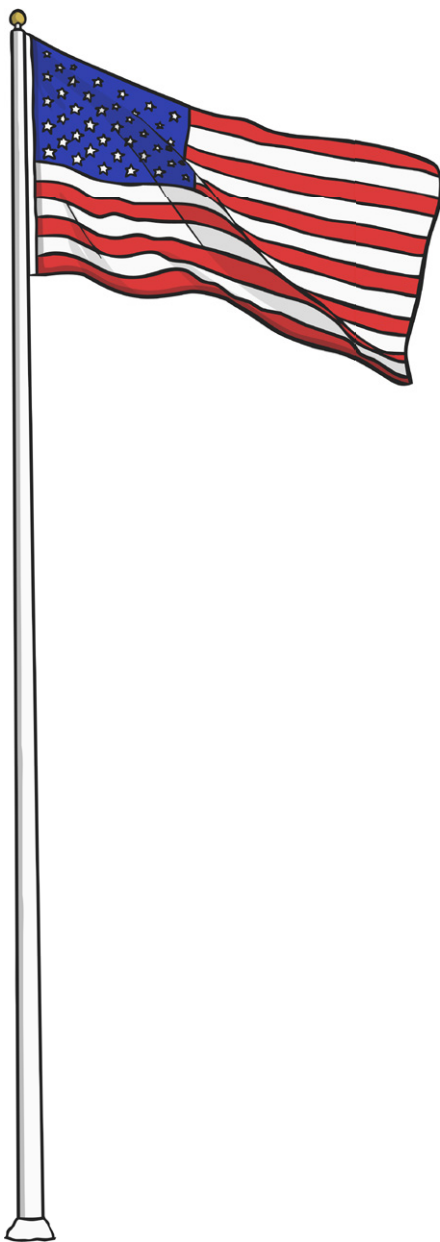


The Star Spangled Banner is the national anthem of the United States of America (USA).

It was written by Francis Scott Key during the war of 1812.

After a heavy night of bombing, Mr Key could still see the American flag waving defiantly among the debris and this inspired him to write the song about the flag, which has a stars and stripes design.

The American national anthem is quite tricky to sing as it has a wide range of low to high notes.



The Star Spangled Banner

O 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 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?

O Canada is the national anthem of Canada.

It was officially written in 1880 for the national holiday of Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day, which is celebrated on June 24th in Canada.

An interesting fact about Canada is that it was named through a misunderstanding. When the French explorers came to the new world, they met with local natives who invited them to their 'kanata' (the word for 'village'). The party mistakenly thought the name of the country was "Kanata" or Canada.



O Canada

O Canada!

Our home and native land!

True patriot love in all thy sons command.

With glowing hearts, we see thee rise,

The True North strong and free!

From far and wide,

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

God keep our land glorious and free!

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee



Advance Australia Fair is the national anthem of Australia.

It was written by Peter Dodds McCormick in 1878 after he attended a great concert in Sydney, where all the National Anthems of the world were sung by a large choir. He really enjoyed the concert, but felt very disappointed that there had been no song for Australia. So that very evening he wrote his own song for Australia!

His song was an instant hit and he was paid £100 by the government for the success of his patriotic song.

However, it wasn't officially made the national anthem of Australia until 1984, one hundred and six years later!



Advance Australia Fair

Australians all let us rejoice,

For we are young and free;

We've golden soil and wealth for toil;

Our home is girt by sea;

Our land abounds in nature's gifts

Of beauty rich and rare;

In history's page, let every stage

Advance Australia Fair.

In joyful strains then let us sing,

Advance Australia Fair.

World National Anthems

1. Who wrote the national anthem of the USA?

2. What object was the inspiration behind the Star Spangled Banner?

3. In which year was O Canada written?

4. What national holiday is celebrated on June 24th in Canada?

5. Who wrote the Australian national anthem?

6. In which year was the Australian national anthem written?

World National Anthems **Answers**

1. Who wrote the national anthem of the USA?

Francis Scott Key

2. What object was the inspiration behind the Star Spangled Banner?

The American Flag

3. In which year was O Canada written?

1880

4. What national holiday is celebrated on June 24th in Canada?

Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day

5. Who wrote the Australian national anthem?

Peter Dodds McCormick

6. In which year was the Australian national anthem written?

1878