



THE WAR OF 1812

LESSON 4

Our national anthem is based on a poem written by Francis Scott Key.

After the words were set to a popular British song, the poem became called "The Star-Spangled Banner."

The poem described how Key felt while watching the attack.

Key's poem was entitled "Defence of Fort M'Henry."



He was inspired by the sight of the American flag, still flying after the two-day British attack.

He wrote it while watching the British bombardment of Baltimore's Fort McHenry in September 1814.

Congress officially declared the song as the nation's anthem in 1931.

The flag has 15 stars, representing the 15 states in the Union. It also had 15 stripes.