

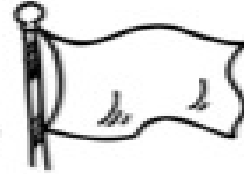
Name _____

Skill: Reading Comprehension

Read the story and answer the questions.

"The Star Spangled Banner"

"The Star Spangled Banner" written by Francis Scott Key, is the national anthem of the United States of America. Key wrote the song during the War of 1812. He was being held prisoner aboard a ship in Baltimore Harbor and watched the British bomb Fort McHenry. He paced across the deck and grew angrier and angrier while watching the battle. He knew that many Americans were being killed. All night long he waited for the sun to rise to see if the American flag was still flying over Fort McHenry. At times during the night, the light from the rockets and bombs lit up the flag. Happily, the American flag was still flying over the fort the next morning. The words to "The Star Spangled Banner" were inspired by what Key saw during the battle. "Oh, say can you see..."



1. What is the main idea of this story? (Circle the answer)

- A. Key knew a lot about battles.
- B. The story relates the history of the writing of the national anthem.
- C. The song was written during the War of 1812.

2. What country did the United States fight during the War of 1812?

3. A word that means "to influence" is: (Circle the answer)

- A. national
- B. aboard
- C. inspire

4. Read line eight of this paragraph. It begins, "At times..." Can you find a line in the "Star Spangled Banner" that refers to this line of the paragraph?

5. Why did Key grow angry during the bombing?

6. What does the term "star spangled banner" refer to?
