

The National Anthem & Pledge of Allegiance | Lesson Plan

Why do we say the Pledge of Allegiance and sing the National Anthem?

Students will be introduced to two important symbols of our nation, the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem, and gain an understanding of their history and significance.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the meaning and importance of the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.
- Recognize the symbols represented in the Pledge and the Anthem.
- Examine the history behind the creation of the Pledge and the Anthem.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Pledge of Allegiance:** A promise we make to our country, with our hands over our hearts, facing the American flag. In the pledge, we promise to be loyal to our country and what it stands for – Liberty, God, and unity.
- **National Anthem:** Every country has a National Anthem, which is a song that expresses their love for their country. America's National Anthem is called "The Star-Spangled Banner."
- **War of 1812:** A war fought between the United States and Great Britain between 1812 and 1815.
- **Fort McHenry:** The fort, defended by the American military during the War of 1812 against the British attack, inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner," America's National Anthem.
- **Francis Scott Key:** The young lawyer from Maryland who was in Baltimore Harbor the night the British attacked Fort McHenry. He wrote a poem he called "The Star-Spangled Banner" about the battle.
- **Patriotism:** Love and devotion for one's country.

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.1, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.L.6, CCRA.R.4

Academic Subject Areas: America, American Values, National Anthem

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: The National Anthem & Pledge of Allegiance* (Click [Here](#))
- Book (optional): *Otto's Tales: The National Anthem & Pledge of Allegiance* (Purchase [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: The National Anthem & Pledge of Allegiance* (Click [Here](#))
- An American flag or picture of the American Flag

Scan to watch episode:



- Star-Spangled Banner recording
- Lyrics and text of both the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (5-7 mins.)

1. Begin the lesson by holding up the American flag for the class. Ask the students what they already know about the flag: What do its colors mean? Why are there 13 red and white stripes? Why are there 50 stars?
2. Ask students what they already know about about the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star-Spangled Banner. Where have they heard them recited/sung?
3. Explain that during today's lesson, they will learn more about the history and meanings behind both of these American symbols that demonstrate patriotism for our nation.

Watch and Complete: (15-20 mins.)

1. Show the students the video *Otto's Tales: The National Anthem & Pledge of Allegiance*.
2. Pause at opportune moments in the video to ask questions and check for understanding of key vocabulary words and their meaning.
3. After the video, hand out the *Otto's Tales: The National Anthem & Pledge of Allegiance* Worksheet. Instruct students to draw a line from the lyric of the National Anthem to its meaning. This can be completed as a whole class or individually. Once the students are done, review the correct answers with them.

Wrap-Up: (15 mins.)

1. Now that the students have a better understanding of what the Star-Spangled Banner and Pledge of Allegiance mean have them recite the Pledge and then sing along with a recording of the Star-Spangled Banner.
2. Afterward, ask questions like:
 - What does it mean to pledge allegiance to something?
 - What does it mean for the nation to be indivisible?
 - What does it mean when we sing, "Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?"
3. Encourage students to really think about the words they are saying the next time they recite the Pledge or sing the National Anthem at a sporting event. Remind them that the reason we recite them is because they help us show love and respect for our country, just like saying "I love you" to our family or friends. The Pledge is like a promise always to be good to our country, and the National Anthem is like a special song that reminds us how lucky we are to live in America.

Don't have time for the complete lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 mins.)

After watching the video, distribute *Otto's Tales: The National Anthem & Pledge of Allegiance* Worksheet and allow students to discuss their favorite character or part of the story.