

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 formal promise to be loyal made to the United States, usually made while standing and placing a hand over the heart.
- **National Anthem:** A patriotic song officially adopted by a country to represent its national pride and unity. The United States National Anthem is "The Star-Spangled Banner."
- **War of 1812:** A military conflict between the United States and Great Britain that occurred from 1812 to 1815.
- **Fort McHenry:** A military fort located in Baltimore, Maryland, defended during the War of 1812 and the inspiration for "The Star-Spangled Banner."
- **Francis Scott Key:** An American lawyer and poet who wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner" after witnessing the Battle of Fort McHenry.
- **Patriotism:** A sense of love and devotion to 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

- Book: *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 image of the American flag
- "The 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 displaying 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 the Pledge of Allegiance and "The Star-Spangled Banner." Where have they heard them recited/sung? Do they know any of the words?
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.

Read and Complete: (15-20 mins.)

1. Read the book *Otto's Tales: The National Anthem & Pledge of Allegiance*.
2. As you read to the students, pause to ask questions and check for understanding of key vocabulary words and their meaning.
3. After reading the book, hand out the *Otto's Tales: The National Anthem & Pledge of Allegiance Worksheet*. Instruct students to draw a line from the word to the image that best reflects the 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 the Pledge of Allegiance mean have them recite the Pledge and then sing along with a recording of the National Anthem.
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 think about the words they are saying the next time they recite the Pledge of Allegiance 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.