



VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO



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WHAT IN THE WORLD'S A TATTOO?



DOE DEN TAP TOE!

That's Dutch for "Turn off the taps!" It's a phrase used four hundred years ago when British soldiers were stationed in the Low Countries, now the Netherlands and Belgium. When the troops weren't off fighting, they joined the local townspeople at taverns and inns, enjoying fellowship and drinking ale.

To summon the soldiers back to their quarters for the night, a single military drummer would march through the towns beating a "doe den tap toe" message to the innkeepers to turn off the ale taps, or stop serving ale.

This signal was eventually trimmed to "tap toe" and then "tattoo," perhaps because of the drum's "rat-a-tat" sound. But while its name was shortened, the size and scope of the ceremony grew as the British army brought the tradition back home to the United Kingdom.

Over the centuries, music and marching were added to the tattoo. Massed military bands dressed in colorful uniforms and playing drums, fifes, bagpipes, and other instruments marched in impressive formations. The tattoo, once a simple command to close the taverns, became a mighty display of military pageantry.

In Scotland, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, established in 1950, is one of the most popular of these exhibitions. Every year 200,000 people attend the tattoo at historic Edinburgh Castle.

Other countries also host tattoos, such as the Norwegian Military Tattoo and the Royal Nova Scotia International Tattoo of Canada. Each event is different and shaped by the culture of the country in which it is presented. Today, most tattoos include civilian entertainment as well as military bands and honor performers from nations outside of the host nation.

VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO



The Virginia International Tattoo marches on, this year celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary with a triumphant return to Scope Arena, an all-new international cast, a musical tribute to “March King” John Philip Sousa, and an emotional celebration of the resilience of the human spirit.

Beloved tattoo traditions will be renewed, including the rousing sing-along service songs of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard; the moving grand choir performances of the national anthem and “Amazing Grace”; and the majesty of the finale as hundreds of performers fill the vast arena in an astounding display of patriotism and international cooperation.

2022 VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO CAST*

CANADA

Canadian Massed Pipes and Drums

JORDAN

Jordanian Armed Forces Band

Jordanian Armed Forces Pipes and Drums

NETHERLANDS

Band of the Netherlands Mounted Arms Regiment

UNITED KINGDOM

Pipes and Drums of the Highlanders, 4th Battalion, Royal Regiment of Scotland

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Andy Carlisle’s Tartan Army

Camden County Emerald Society Pipes and Drums

Granby High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps

Hampton Roads Police Color Guards

Old Dominion University Concert Choir

Seán Heely, U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion

Tidewater Pipes and Drums

U.S. Air Force Heritage of America Band

U.S. Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps

U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Herald Trumpets

U.S. Marine Forces Reserve Band

U.S. Marine Corps FAST Company

U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Band

Virginia Children’s Chorus

Virginia International Tattoo Highland Dancers

Virginia Symphony Orchestra Chorus

*Subject to change.

TATTOO-RIFFIC! WHAT TO EXPECT



The Virginia International Tattoo is an extravaganza of amazing sights and incredible sounds. Here's what you will see and hear:

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Long ago, before radio or digital communications, musical instruments were a vital part of military life. Drums provided rhythms for marching. Bugles, trumpets, and fifes relayed orders from commanders to soldiers in the field. In the United Kingdom, Scottish bagpipers served in the military as far back as the 1600s. As the bagpipes were played into battle, their big, bold sound lifted the troops' spirits and struck fear in the hearts of the enemy.

MARCHING

In most countries, marching is part of basic military training. Obeying marching orders, known as drill commands, requires discipline. To march in formation, or as a single unit, each individual in the group must keep in mind his or her dress, cover, interval, and distance.

Dress: alignment with the person to either side

Cover: alignment with the person in front

Interval: space between the person to either side

Distance: space between the person in front

MILITARY UNIFORM

You may wear a uniform at school, in your scout troop, or for your sports team. The uniform identifies you as a member of that group. Members of military organizations wear uniforms to show that they belong to the armed forces of a particular nation. A country's military uniform often reflects its history and tradition. In the United Kingdom, for instance, soldiers from the Scottish Highlands wore tartan—what we in America call plaid—into battle. In that mountainous area of Scotland, the various clans who lived there could be distinguished by the unique colors and patterns of their tartan kilts.

DANCING

The Highland dance style comes from the Highlands region of Scotland. It is a technical form of dance requiring great strength and stamina. It's believed that centuries ago Scottish soldiers used Highland dancing as exercise to keep fit for battle. Until the early twentieth century, Highland dancing was performed mostly by men. During the World Wars, Scottish women learned to dance too, preserving the tradition while the men were away. Today, both males and females dance. Highland dance students practice many hours and train for many years. The laced leather shoes Highland dancers wear are called ghillies.

SPOTLIGHT ON CANADA

Capital: Ottawa

Official Language: English and French

With a third of its land located within the Arctic Circle, it's no wonder Canada's often referred to as the Great White North! Those arctic regions stay frozen for up to nine months a year, so most Canadians live near the country's border with the United States, where the climate is milder. And that border? At 5,525 miles, it's the longest international boundary in the world.

Canada is a vast country—the second largest on the globe—with areas of rugged mountains, forested valleys, and rolling plains. Many native Canadians, also called First Nations people, live in the icy north. They hunt and fish amid the glaciers, just as their ancestors did when they arrived in North America from Asia thousands of years ago.

Half of Canada is covered with forests. Forest wildlife includes bears, deer, wolves, moose, and beavers, the country's official animal. Arctic creatures such as caribou, polar bears, and seals live in the frozen north. There are thousands of lakes in Canada, which, along with the country's rivers, contain almost 20 percent of all fresh water on the planet. Niagara Falls, the most powerful waterfall in North America and a popular tourist attraction, is shared by both Canada and the United States.

The first non-native to reach Canada was Viking explorer Leif Eriksson around 1000 CE. British and French settlers arrived in the 1500s, but disagreements between fur traders and farmers resulted in a series of wars between 1689 and 1763. The British kept control of Canada after the last of these conflicts, the French and Indian War, but the French influence remains. Canada became an independent nation in 1931, though it still recognizes the British monarch as its head of state.

Canada is made up of ten provinces and three territories. Canada's population is diverse, including First Nations peoples and descendants of the British and French settlers, plus immigrants from around



Niagara Falls - Dmitri Markine



Beaver - D. Gordon E. Robertson

SPOTLIGHT ON CANADA

the world. Though Canada is slightly larger than the United States, it has only 11 percent as many people. It is one of the least densely populated countries in the world.

The distinctive maple leaf on the Canadian flag is a time-honored symbol of the country's heritage. Long before the first European settlers arrived, Canada's native peoples discovered that maple sap, which they gathered every spring, could be used as food. The maple leaf became a Canadian symbol as early as 1700, appearing in military and government settings, on currency, even in song. The red maple leaf design became the official flag of Canada in 1965. Another well-known symbol of Canadian culture is the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The Mounties are Canada's national police force. Established in 1873 to keep law and order in the country's untamed northwest, the Mounties rode horseback in their bright red dress uniforms. Today, the Mounties patrol in vehicles, generally showing off their horse riding skills only in public exhibitions.

DID YOU KNOW?

- A body of water in the Canadian province of Manitoba is called Pekwachnamaykoskwaypinwanik Lake. What a mouthful! The name is Cree for "where the wild trout are caught by fishing with hooks."
- Drumheller Valley in the province of Alberta is home to many dinosaur fossils, earning its nickname the Dinosaur Capital of the World.
- The province of Quebec produces most of the world's maple syrup. Pancakes, anyone?

LEARN MORE AT:

National Geographic Kids

www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/canada



Moraine Lake in Banff National Park



Maple Syrup



Mounites



Canada Place in downtown Vancouver

SPOTLIGHT ON JORDAN

Capital: Amman

Official Language: Arabic

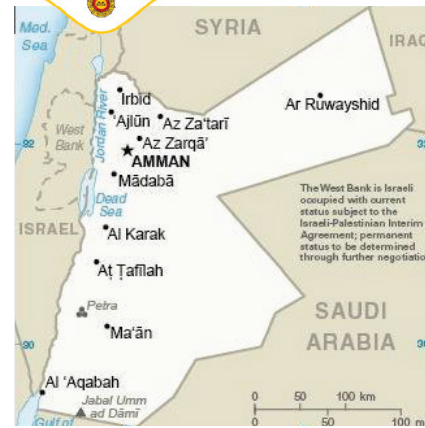
Since the dawn of civilization, Jordan's central Middle Eastern location has served as a crossroads connecting Asia, Africa, and Europe. A well-traveled bridge between east and west, Jordan is a land of great beauty and stunning contrasts. From shifting desert sands to the shimmering waters of the Red Sea, from ancient wonders like the sandstone city of Petra to the vibrant capital of Amman, multifaceted Jordan offers visitors plenty to do and see. Despite the turmoil in other parts of the Middle East, Jordan is considered one of the safest countries in the region.

Archaeologists have found evidence of people living in what is modern-day Jordan as far back as 7250 BCE. Many ancient kingdoms would settle or conquer the land over the centuries, including the Egyptians, Israelites, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, and Romans.

One of the most notable Jordanian civilizations was the Nabataean kingdom, which ruled between 400 BCE and 106 CE. The Nabataeans carved their capital city from the rose-colored rock at Petra, which became a major trade center for the region. In 2007, the "Rose City" of Petra was named one of the new Seven Wonders of the World, and many thousands of tourists flock to it every year.

Jordan was part of the Ottoman Empire from 1516 until the end of World War I, when it was awarded to the United Kingdom. The British created the Emirate of Transjordan, headed by Prince Abdullah but under British rule. In 1946, Jordan was granted full independence from Britain and Abdullah became king.

After the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, Jordan joined its Arab neighbors to fight the new country. Jordan took over the West Bank and East Jerusalem. King Abdullah was assassinated in 1951; later his grandson, the late King Hussein, would rule until his death in 1999. After Israel won the Six Day Arab-Israeli War in 1967, it regained control of Jerusalem and the West Bank and Palestinian refugees



SPOTLIGHT ON JORDAN

fled into Jordan. In 1994 Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty, and in 1999 King Abdullah II assumed the throne. Jordan has since enjoyed relative peace, stability, and economic growth.

Jordan is a land of great natural beauty. Wadi Rum, also known as the Valley of the Moon, is a stark, scenic valley cut into the sandstone and granite of southern Jordan, east of the Red Sea. The native Bedouin people here have developed eco-adventure tourism into a profitable industry, welcoming rock climbers and hikers and offering Bedouin tent camping as well as camel, horse, and jeep safaris through the red desert wilderness.

The Jordan River, better known as the River Jordan, from which the country takes its name, runs along Jordan's western border. The river is important in both Judaism and Christianity as the place where the Israelites crossed into the Promised Land and where Jesus was baptized.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Hollywood loves Jordan. Several scenes from the blockbuster movie *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* were filmed in the rock-cut city of Petra. Most of *Lawrence of Arabia* was shot in Wadi Rum, as were the "Mars" scenes in *The Martian*.
- The Western numerical system was originally derived from Arabic numbers. Unlike Arabic words, though, which are read from right to left, Arabic numerals are read from left to right, the same as Western numerals.
- Jordan's queen from 1978 to 1999, Noor al-Hussein, was born in the United States as Lisa Najeeb Halaby. Daughter of a prominent Arab American family, Halaby became an architect before marrying King Abdullah of Jordan in 1978. Since the king's death in 1999, Noor has continued the philanthropic work she was known for as queen, focusing on climate change, ocean health, and other environmental issues.

LEARN MORE AT:

National Geographic Kids

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Jordan/345716>

The River Jordan feeds the Dead Sea, a large body of water that, as the name suggests, does not support any plant or animal life. This is because of an extremely high salt and mineral content—almost nine times the saltiness of the world's oceans—caused by rapid evaporation. The salts and minerals are used in agriculture and industry, as well as in medical and therapeutic treatments. Swimming in the Dead Sea is nearly impossible, though, and sinking too. The water's high density keeps the body afloat on the surface!



Queen Noor - Skoll World Forum



Dead Sea - Bernard Gagnon



Wadi Rum - Daniel Case

SPOTLIGHT ON NETHERLANDS

Capital: Amsterdam
Official Language: Dutch



“Low countries”—that’s what the name *Netherlands* means. And most of this small European country would be underwater but for a variety of dikes, seawalls, canals, and pumps that keep the North Sea and a pair of major rivers at bay (no pun intended!).

The Netherlands, sometimes called Holland, is nestled between Belgium and Germany in Western Europe. To the north and west, the North Sea pounds the nation, nearly half of which sits below sea level. To prevent their land from washing away, the country’s people, known as the Dutch, have built dikes, dams, and floodgates. River dikes prevent flooding from the Rhine and Meuse rivers that flow into the Netherlands. And a series of drainage canals and pumping stations—historically powered by windmills—keep the flat land dry, livable, and farmable.

The windmill, in fact, is one of the most recognizable symbols of the Netherlands. By the mid-1800s, about ten thousand Dutch windmills pumped water, ground grain, or powered sawmills. Today, there are just over a thousand windmills, some used for drainage, others used as museums to preserve the nation’s history.

Since the Netherlands is mostly coastal lowlands and has no mountain ranges or other natural borders, it was an easy target for invading neighbors over the years. Outsiders occupied parts of the country for centuries, including the Romans, Germanic tribes, Vikings, Franks, Austrians, and Spanish. In 1568 the Dutch battled Spain for their independence—known as the Eighty Years’ War—which they won in 1648.

During the war, the Dutch enjoyed a great blossoming of trade, industry, art, and sciences, known as the Dutch Golden Age. The Dutch were skilled seafarers and took the lead in world trade with the Dutch East India Company, the first multinational corporation, financed by shares in the first modern stock exchange. The Dutch traded spices in India and Indonesia and founded colonies like New Amsterdam, now New York, in America, South Africa, and the West Indies.



Tulip field



Windmills



Canal

SPOTLIGHT ON NETHERLANDS

The Dutch were tolerant of intellectual thought, so philosophers, scientists, writers, and artists felt free to explore, experiment, and create. Physicist Christiaan Huygens invented the pendulum clock, a major step in precise timekeeping, and scientist Antonie van Leeuwenhoek laid the foundation for microbiology with his improvements to the microscope. What we call the Dutch Masters were a group of exceptional painters from the region, including Rembrandt, Vermeer, and Van Gogh.

The “blossoming” of the Dutch Golden Age also included a fascination with a flower, the tulip. First grown by the Turks, tulips were imported to the Netherlands in the sixteenth century. There, they became something of an obsession, a symbol of status and wealth. In the mid-seventeenth century, tulips were so popular that they created an economic bubble called “tulip mania.” As people bought up bulbs, they became so expensive that they were used as money until the market in them crashed!

DID YOU KNOW?

- In the Netherlands, the bicycle is king—the country boasts three times as many bicycles as cars!
- You can still tiptoe through the tulips today in the “flower shop of the world.” Dutch tulips are cultivated in vast fields of beautiful colors, and tulip festivals can be found throughout the country in the spring.
- The Dutch are the tallest people in the world! On average, men are six feet tall and women are five and a half feet.

LEARN MORE AT:

National Geographic Kids

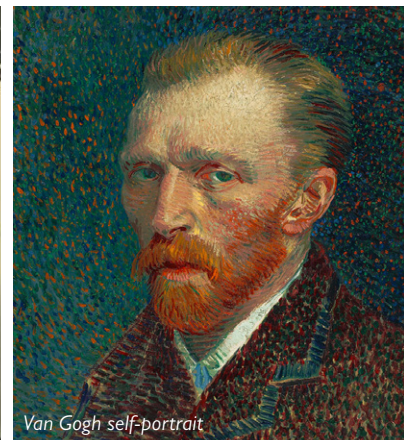
<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/netherlands>

During the Napoleonic Wars, France’s Napoleon took over the region and put his brother Louis on the throne in 1806. In 1814, the people claimed independence from France, and for twenty-five years Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands were united as one country known as the Kingdom of the Netherlands. In 1839, the Netherlands became independent once more.

During World War II, Germany occupied the Netherlands for five years and killed many Jews, as well as people who resisted or helped the Dutch Jews. You may be familiar with the story of a Jewish girl who went into hiding with her family in the Netherlands during the occupation. *The Diary of Anne Frank* is one of the world’s most widely read books. In Amsterdam today, memorials to Anne include the Anne Frank House museum and a beautiful bronze statue.



Anne Frank



Van Gogh self-portrait



Bike parking ramp

SPOTLIGHT ON UNITED KINGDOM

Capital: London

Official Language: English



From Stonehenge to Buckingham Palace, the United Kingdom is known for its rich history and royal heritage. Located off the northwestern coast of Europe, the United Kingdom consists of four parts: England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. England, Scotland, and Wales make up an island called Great Britain; Northern Ireland sits at the north of the island of Ireland, to the west of Great Britain. (Though Ireland and Northern Ireland comprise one large island, Ireland is actually its own independent country and Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom.)

It's believed that Stone Age man came to Britain via a land bridge that once joined the island to Europe. When melting ice raised the seas about 8,500 years ago, Britain became a separate island. Around 2000 BCE one of the UK's most famous landmarks was built: Stonehenge. This stone monument of giant columns and curved crosspieces was constructed even before the wheel had been invented. Scientists are still not sure exactly how and why the mysterious Stonehenge was created.

Around 500 BCE, the Celtic people arrived in Britain from Europe, followed by the Romans in 43 CE. The Romans ruled for nearly four hundred years. They built forts, roads, and bathhouses, the ruins of which can still be seen today all over Britain. They also brought the practice of medicine and law and key ideas about government on which the UK's parliamentary system is based. Many words in the English language come from the Latin language of the Romans. You may have studied some Latin root words in school.

By 500 BCE, Germanic tribes called the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes inhabited Britain. The name England comes from the Angles; English people became known as Anglo-Saxons. Viking, Danish, and Norman invaders ruled England from the 900s to the 1400s. In 1485, Henry Tudor from Wales became king, the first of five Tudors to claim the crown. Later, kings and queens came from other families.



Queen Victoria



Stonehenge - Garethwiscombe



Changing of the guard - Bortescristian



Loch Ness - Sam Pentress

SPOTLIGHT ON UNITED KINGDOM

During the reign of Queen Victoria (1837–1901), Britain became one of the most powerful and wealthy nations in the world, thanks to trade and a growing overseas empire. Most of Britain's colonies gained their independence after the two World Wars, though, as the nation was drained of its might. Many people from the former colonies in the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia migrated to the UK, creating the diverse British population of today.

It was under Queen Victoria's rule that Buckingham Palace in London became the official residence and workplace of the British monarchy. A favorite tourist attraction is the daily guard-changing ceremony at Buckingham Palace. Dressed in traditional red coats and tall, black bearskin hats, a group of soldiers—the Queen's Guard—stationed at the royal residence exchanges duties with a new group.

DID YOU KNOW?

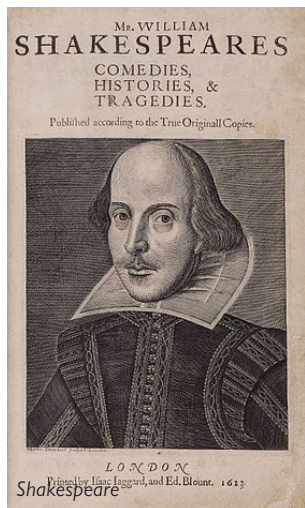
- Do you play soccer? Modern soccer was invented in the United Kingdom, where it's called football. Other popular sports—including rugby (similar to American football), cricket (similar to baseball), modern boxing, and golf—also got their start in the UK.
- The British enjoy their tea, as a nation drinking 100 million cups a day!
- While Scotland is home to all sorts of wildlife—from otters, seals, and puffins to red deer and mountain hares—its most famous creatures are of the more mythical sort. Reports of a serpentlike monster, fondly known as Nessie, living in the Highlands lake Loch Ness date back to ancient times. And Scotland's official animal? It's the unicorn!

LEARN MORE AT:

National Geographic Kids

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/united-kingdom>

Many of the great names in literature you might know came from the United Kingdom, including playwright William Shakespeare, poet Robert Burns, novelist Charles Dickens, and children's writer Roald Dahl. You may have also heard of British author J. K. Rowling, who wrote a series of books about a boy wizard named Harry Potter!



Scottish unicorn/flag/shield carving at Edinburgh Castle



Soccer - Rick Dikeman

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

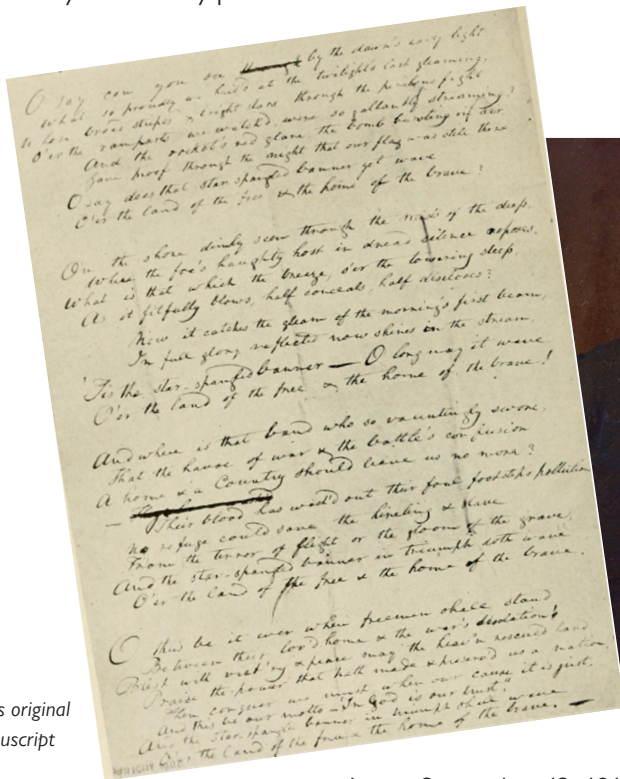
From Eyewitness Account to National Anthem: “The Star-Spangled Banner”

*O say can you see
By the dawn's early light...*

You've probably heard or sung these words—at school or community events, sports competitions, and important national celebrations like the inauguration of a new president. They're the opening lines of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” our country's national anthem, or national song. They were written as a poem by Francis Scott Key more than two hundred years ago. But did you know that they tell a true story? Here's the true story behind Key's true-story poem...



Cover of sheet music



Key's original manuscript



Francis Scott Key

It was September 13, 1814, and the United States was at war with the British again. The British had already pounded Washington, DC, burning the Capitol, the Treasury, and the president's house. Now their sights were set on Fort McHenry, an important military compound located in Baltimore Harbor. For twenty-five long hours, British warships pummeled the fort with shells and rockets.

Watching the fierce battle from a vessel nearby was Francis Scott Key. Key was a DC-area lawyer who, days earlier, had boarded a British ship to try to persuade the enemy to release a friend they'd taken prisoner. Though Key's friend would be set free, the British wouldn't let Key return immediately to shore because he'd learned of the plans for the Baltimore attack. Instead, the British guarded him aboard a truce ship as the brutal Battle of Baltimore unfolded before his eyes. As darkness fell, fiery explosions continued to color the night sky red. Key was sure that meant the British were winning.

But as dawn broke and the smoke cleared, Key was amazed to find that the flag flying victoriously over the fort was the American Stars and Stripes, not the British Union Jack! Inspired by what he'd seen, Key wrote down his eyewitness account in the form of a poem. Key's poem was soon published and set to a popular tune originally composed in England decades earlier. The inspiring lyrics and soaring melody made “The Star-Spangled Banner” a patriotic hit.

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

By the late 1800s and into the early 1900s, the song was adopted by the military for ceremonial purposes. Finally, with support from high-profile fans like John Philip Sousa—the march composer and longtime leader of the U.S. Marine Band—“The Star-Spangled Banner” became the official anthem of the United States by a congressional resolution in 1931.

Another true story: The actual flag that inspired Key’s “Star-Spangled Banner” still exists. It’s one of the most treasured artifacts at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History in Washington, DC. Created in 1813 by Baltimore flagmaker Mary Pickers-gill, the original featured fifteen stars and stripes—one each for the thirteen colonies, plus Vermont and Kentucky—and measured a whopping 30x42 feet, about one-fourth of a basketball court! The flag had to be that large so that when it was flown it could be seen from great distances.

FUN FACTS

- Each star and stripe on the actual 1813 flag measures about 24 inches wide. The flag has undergone several restorations to keep it intact.
- Francis Scott Key’s poem was originally titled “Defence of Fort M’Henry”—good thing he changed his mind!
- Key’s poem was four stanzas long; it’s the first verse that’s become most recognizable and is sung most often.

LEARN MORE AT:

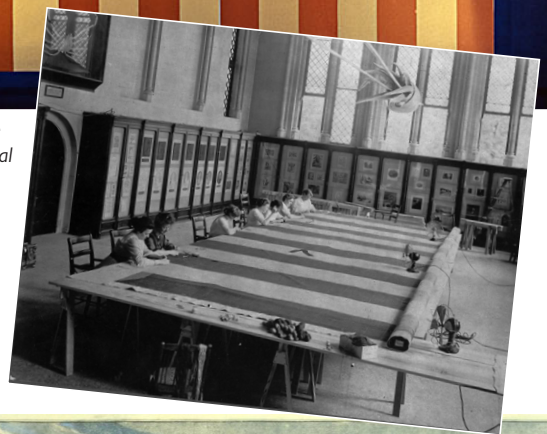
Smithsonian’s interactive “The Star-Spangled Banner”
<https://amhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner/interactive-flag.aspx>

Britannica Kids

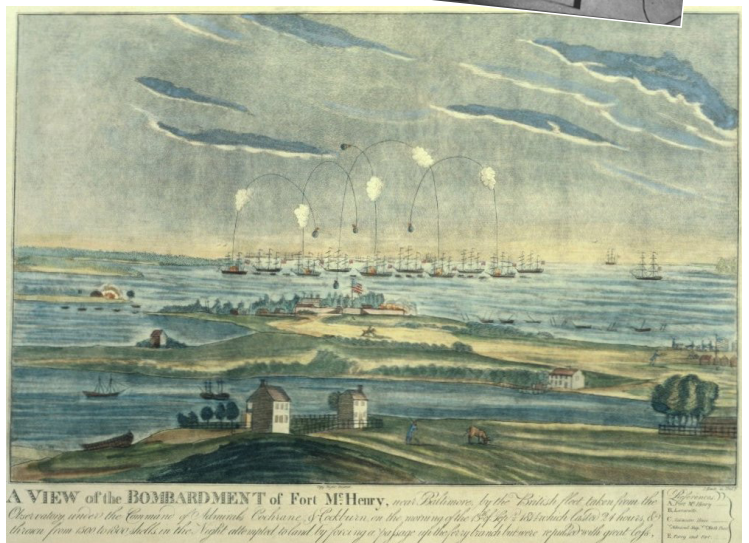
<https://kids.britannica.com/students/article/The-Star-Spangled-Banner/337264>



Flag on display at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of History and Technology



Repair Work 1914



Artist’s rendering of the battle at Fort McHenry

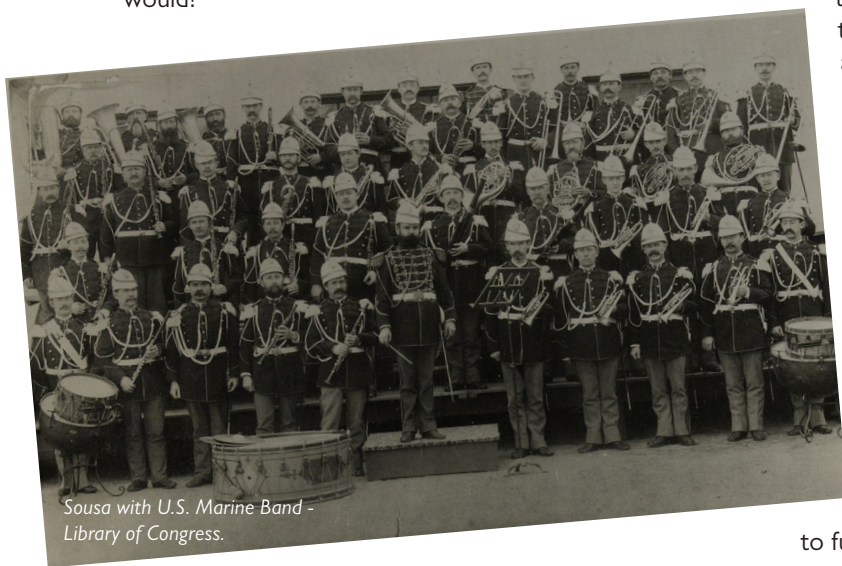
JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

John Philip Sousa American March King

Mega-talented musician John Philip Sousa grew up surrounded by the rousing horns and lively drumbeats of military band music. He was born in 1854 near the Washington, DC, barracks where his father played trombone in the prestigious U.S. Marine Band. This military musical ensemble was established in 1798 under President John Adams; Thomas Jefferson dubbed the band “The President’s Own” after the group performed for his 1801 inauguration (and every presidential inauguration since).

At age six, young Sousa started learning violin, piano, flute, cornet, trombone, and other instruments; at thirteen, he was accomplished enough to run off and join a circus band. Dad had other ideas; he enlisted his adventurous son as an apprentice in the Marine Band. There, Sousa soaked up all the musical training he could, including studies in music theory, composing, and conducting.

When Sousa was discharged in 1875, the twenty-one-year-old hit the concert trail, touring with theater orchestras as violinist, conductor, and composer. While on tour in St. Louis, he received a telegram: Would he like to lead “The President’s Own,” the U.S. Marine Band he’d loved and learned so much from? Yes—yes, he would!



*Sousa with U.S. Marine Band -
Library of Congress.*

Reporting for duty in Washington, DC, in 1880, Sousa quickly shaped and polished the musical group into the country’s premier military band, its fine reputation



Painting of Sousa during US Marine Band era - Library of Congress.

spreading far and wide. His own acclaim as a composer was launched with a pair of marches, “The Gladiator” in 1886, and “Semper Fidelis,” his 1888 tribute to the U.S. Marine Corps, now known as the official march of that military branch.

But it was “The Washington Post,” a march Sousa wrote to promote a student essay contest sponsored by the newspaper of the same name, that made Sousa a superstar in 1889. Paired with a new dance craze called the two-step, the song became a hit in the United States and Europe. A British journalist suggested that since Austrian dance composer Johann Strauss Jr. was called the “Waltz King,” Sousa should be crowned the “March King.” Sousa has been known by that royal nickname ever since.

Under Sousa’s leadership, the U.S. Marine Band made its very first recordings. The new technology called the phonograph played sound recorded onto hard wax cylinders and discs. The Columbia Phonograph Company recorded and released for sale scores of Marine Band performances throughout the 1890s, helping to further popularize Sousa’s marches and the musical group he helmed. This led to President Benjamin Harrison granting official permission in 1891 for the first U.S. Marine Band concert tour, an annual tradition since then, except in times of war.

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

In 1892, Sousa resigned as director of the U.S. Marine Band to start his own civilian band. At his farewell concert on the White House lawn, Sousa was presented with a handsome engraved baton in gratitude for his twelve years of service under five presidents. Sousa's family returned the baton to the Marine Band in 1953, and it is now traditionally passed to the group's new director during each change-of-command ceremony.

With Sousa's own civilian band, which he led until his death in 1932, the "March King" found even greater fame. In his lifetime, he wrote over 130 stirring marches, including many you've likely heard in parades, at sporting events, on the radio, even in TV shows and movies ("The Liberty Bell" was the theme music for the popular British comedy TV series *Monty Python's Flying Circus*). In 1987, "The Stars and Stripes Forever" was named the official national march of the United States by an act of Congress.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Picture a tuba. What musical instrument comes to mind? If it's the horn that circles the player and has a big, wide bell, that's actually a sousaphone! Around 1893, Sousa decided he needed a tuba-like horn that would send its sound up and over his new civilian band during concerts. Instrument maker J. W. Pepper created it, and named it after the bandleader.
- Other things named after Sousa include the John Philip Sousa Bridge in Washington, DC; the World War II Liberty ship *SS John Philip Sousa*; and the U.S. Marine Band's performance space, John Philip Sousa Hall, at the Marine Barracks Annex, also in our nation's capital. An eight-foot bronze statue of Sousa stands out front.

LEARN MORE AND LISTEN:

John Philip Sousa Foundation

www.sousafoundation.net/

U.S. Marine Band

www.marineband.marines.mil/

U.S. Marine Band director shares info about and counts down his top ten Sousa marches

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLA7no0L9zTk7VIDAZzeTiyiFSJl0ydbc>



Sousa in Marine uniform - Library of Congress



Sousa statue - Gunnery Sgt Amanda Simmons



Bill Muter, Riviera Maya Jazz Festival - Atlantic Arts and Entertainment

Sousaphone



Hypnotic Brass Ensemble - Schorle

“AMAZING GRACE”

The Amazing Tale of “Amazing Grace”

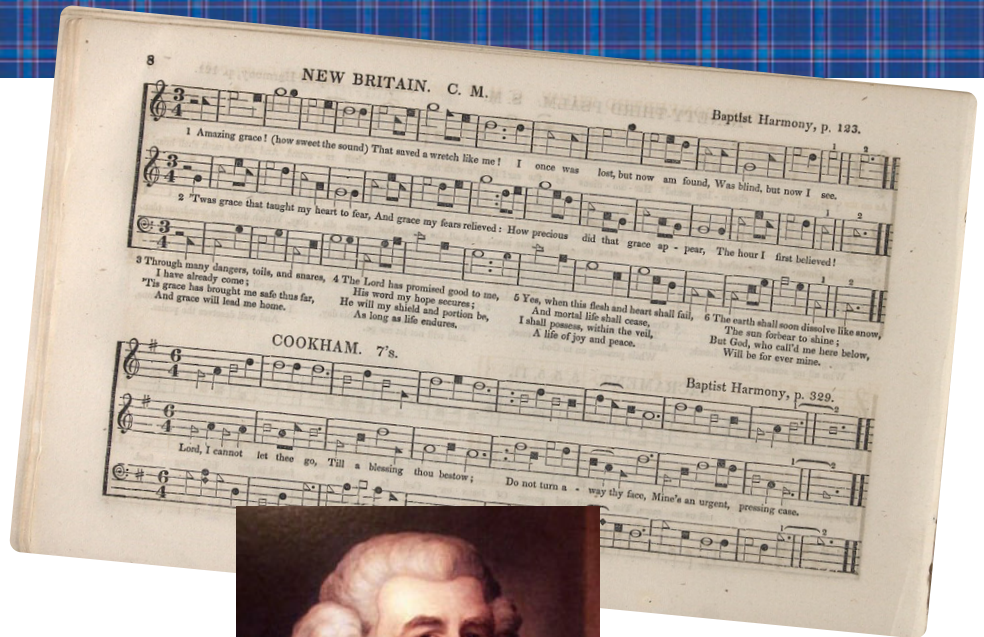
Like “The Star-Spangled Banner,” “Amazing Grace” is one of our country’s best-known and most-performed songs. Also like our national anthem, “Amazing Grace” was originally written as a poem, then later set to music. One more similarity: “Amazing Grace” is based on the true life experience of its writer.

John Newton was born in London, England, in 1725. His early life was full of trouble, and he came to be known as a troublemaker. His mother died when he was seven; by age eleven, he was sailing the high seas with his father, a merchant ship captain. At eighteen, the Royal Navy forced him to join. When he tried to desert, he was punished and traded as a crewman to a passing ship carrying enslaved Africans. Newton would spend many years as a sailor in the Atlantic slave trade.

In March 1748, Newton’s ship was tossed by a violent storm that swept away a crewmate and threatened to demolish the vessel. As he steered the ship, Newton—who’d often mocked others’ religious beliefs—concluded that only the grace, or mercy or kindness, of God could save him. The ship returned safely home, and Newton slowly began to change his ways. Though he continued his career as a trader of enslaved people for several more years, he eventually became a Church of England clergyman, as well as an advocate of abolition, or the end of slavery and the slave trade.

As part of Newton’s outreach to his large congregation of the poor, he began to write poems. One of those was “Amazing Grace,” penned in December 1773, in which he shared his transformation from a “wretch” to a man of faith. The first and third verse read:

*Amazing grace! (how sweet the sound)
That sav’d a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.*



As “New Britain” in 1847 hymnal
- Library of Congress

Painting of John Newton at The
Cowper and Newton Museum

*Thro’ many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
‘Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.*

The poem was first published in a British hymnal in 1779. Decades after Newton’s death in 1807, American composer William Walker in 1835 set the poem to the tune known as “New Britain.” The song became widely popular in the United States, particularly in church and religious settings, and this is the melody now most connected to the poem.

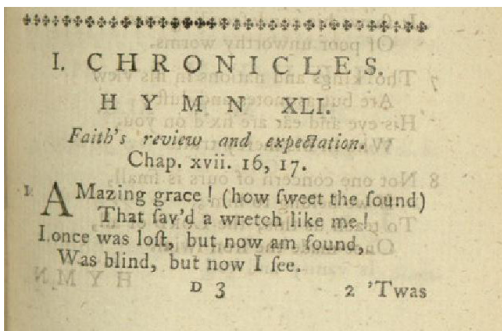
Scholars believe that “Amazing Grace” was likely especially meaningful to enslaved people, with its inspirational message of hope and strength amid great suffering. In 1852, author Harriet Beecher Stowe used some of the verses in her abolitionist novel *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, and added an additional verse that is still sung today:

*When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise,
Than when we first begun.*

“AMAZING GRACE”

Radio and sound recordings helped spread “Amazing Grace” to non-religious audiences. Over the years, the song’s hope-through-tough-times message has become linked with moments of personal hardship—it’s often performed at funerals and memorial services—as well as with great national challenges, such as social injustice and war. “Amazing Grace” was an anthem of the civil rights movement, sung at marches and rallies led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the 1960s, and of Vietnam War protests into the 1970s. It’s been performed at ceremonies of national mourning, including for the astronauts lost on space shuttle *Challenger* in 1986 and the thousands lost in the 9/11 terrorist attacks of 2001.

Just as “The Star-Spangled Banner” is our country’s official national anthem, “Amazing Grace” is considered by many to be America’s spiritual national anthem.



Olney Hymns 1779



Martin Luther King, Jr., speaking against the Vietnam War, St. Paul Campus, University of Minnesota, April 27, 1967 - Minnesota Historical Society

Civil Rights March on Washington, D.C. August 1963 - Library of Congress and U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

WATCH

Watch amazing renditions of “Amazing Grace” from previous Virginia International Tattoos:

- Sung in nine different languages!
<https://youtu.be/lorfRqhZtLw>

- In a super-cool mash-up with “Fight Song”!
<https://youtu.be/ykXcUgca4wY>

LEARN MORE:

John Newton at Britannica Kids

<https://kids.britannica.com/students/article/John-Newton/331258>



Dance: 1.5–7; 2.5–7; 3.5–7; 4.6, 7; 5.6, 7; 6.5–7; 7.5–7; 8.6, 7, 11; DI.5–7; DII.6, 11; DIII.6, 11; DIV.11

Music: K.6, 7, 9, 11; 1.5–7, 9, 11; 2.5–7, 9, 11; 3.5–7, 9, 11; 4.5–7, 11; 5.5–7, 9, 11; EI.5–7, 9–11; 6.5–7, 10, 11; 7.5–7, 11; 8.5–7, 11; MIB.5–7, 9–11; MII.5–7, 11; MIAD.5–7, 11; MCB.5–7, 11; MCI.5–7, 11; MCAD.5, 6, 11; HM.5–7, 11; HMT.5–7, 11; HIB.5, 6, 11; HII.5–7, 11; HIAD.5–7; HIAR.5–7; HCB.5, 6; HCI.5–7; HCAD.5–7; HCAR.5–7

English: K.9, 1.10, 2.8, 3.6, 4.6, 5.6, 6.6, 7.6, 8.6, 9.5, 10.5, 11.5, 12.5

History and Social Science: 3.1; CE.4; USI.1, 8; USII.1, 7; WHI.1, 6, 9; WHII.1; WG.1, 2, 5, 7, 10

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