

World National Anthems

There are 195 official countries in the world, each with their own national song – that's a lot of anthems! A national anthem is a piece of music that is used to express patriotic sentiment. Various genres of music are chosen to be a national anthem. The music may be a fanfare, a hymn, a march, or a song. The British national anthem, God Save The Queen, is the oldest national anthem, having been performed since 1745.

God Save The Queen

God save our gracious Queen!

Long live our noble Queen!

God save the Queen!

Send her victorious,

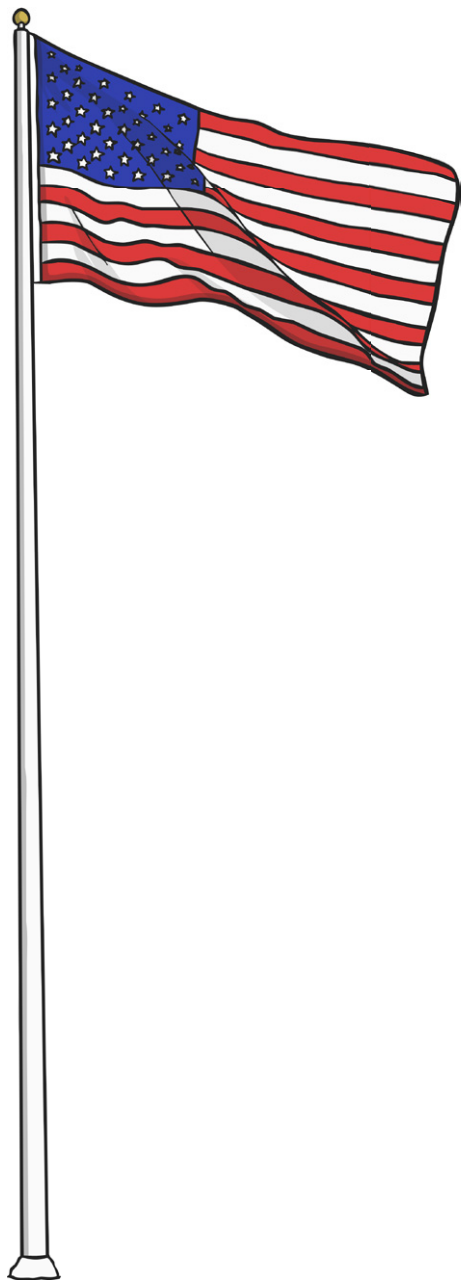
Happy and glorious,

Long to reign over us,

God save the Queen.



The Star Spangled Banner is the national anthem of the United States of America (USA). The poem on which the anthem is based was written by Francis Scott Key after he witnessed the bombing of Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. The morning after a heavy night of bombing, Mr Key could still see the American flag waving defiantly among the debris and this inspired him to write the patriotic verse. As the poem became more and more popular, it was set to music and officially became the American national anthem in 1931, over one hundred years since it was originally written. This national anthem is actually very tricky to sing, as it has a wide vocal range.



The Star Spangled Banner

O say can you see, by the dawn's
early light,

What so proudly we hailed at the
twilight's last gleaming,

Whose broad stripes and bright stars
through the perilous fight

O'er the ramparts we watched were so
gallantly streaming?

And the rocket's red glare, the bombs
bursting in air,

Gave proof through the night that our flag
was still there,

O say does that star-spangled banner
yet wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of
the brave?

O Canada is the national anthem of Canada. It was officially written in 1880 for the national holiday of Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day which is celebrated on June 24th in Canada. The melody was composed by Calixa Lavallée and the lyrics written by Adolphe-Basile Routhier. An interesting fact about Canada is that it was named through a misunderstanding. When Jaques Cartier, a French explorer came to the new world, he met with local natives who invited them to their 'kanata' (the word for 'village'). The party mistakenly thought the name of the country was "Kanata" or Canada.



O Canada

O Canada!

Our home and native land!

True patriot love in all thy sons command.

With glowing hearts, we see thee rise,

The True North strong and free!

From far and wide,

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

God keep our land glorious and free!

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee



Advance Australia Fair is the national anthem of Australia. It was written by Peter Dodds McCormick in 1878 after he attended a great concert in Sydney, where all the National Anthems of the world were sung by a large choir with band accompaniment. He really enjoyed the concert, but felt very disappointed that there had been no song that solely represented Australia, as at this time Australia used God Save The Queen as the national anthem. On the bus on the way home, he wrote the first verse of his song and then wrote the tune when he got home. His song was an instant hit and he was paid £100 by the government for the success of his patriotic song, however it wasn't officially made the national anthem of Australia until 1984, one hundred and six years later!



Advance Australia Fair

Australians all let us rejoice,

For we are young and free;

We've golden soil and wealth for toil;

Our home is girt by sea;

Our land abounds in nature's gifts

Of beauty rich and rare;

In history's page, let every stage

Advance Australia Fair.

In joyful strains then let us sing,

Advance Australia Fair.

World National Anthems

1. During which war was the American national anthem written?

2. In which year did the Star Spangled Banner become the official national anthem of the USA?

3. Which national holiday was O Canada written for?

4. Who wrote the lyrics for O Canada?

5. How much was the composer of the Australian national anthem paid for his patriotic song?

6. What year was Advance Australia Fair made the official national anthem?

World National Anthems **Answers**

1. During which war was the American national anthem written?

The War of 1812

2. In which year did the Star Spangled Banner become the official national anthem of the USA?

1931

3. Which national holiday was O Canada written for?

Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day

4. Who wrote the lyrics for O Canada?

Adolphe-Basile Routhier

5. How much was the composer of the Australian national anthem paid for his patriotic song?

£100

6. What year was Advance Australia Fair made the official national anthem?

1984