
Lesson Excerpt: America the Beautiful

Focus:

Ask students to name our national anthem. Tell them that another song, “America the Beautiful,” is so loved by many Americans that it is sometimes considered a second, “unofficial” national anthem. Ask students if they can sing or recite the words to the song.

Activity:

1. Have students read and/or discuss the handout on the song’s history. Complete and discuss the vocabulary and comprehension questions.
2. Review the background and meaning of “America the Beautiful.” Remind students that the song describes the beauty of our country. (See Links page of www.americanheritage.org for additional resources on “America the Beautiful.”)
 - Define: spacious, amber, majesties, grace, brotherhood
 - Who wrote the poem America the Beautiful?
 - Where was the poem first written?
 - What beautiful things are described in the poem?
 - What does “God shed his grace on thee” mean?
 - What does “from sea to shining sea” mean?

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Resource: *America’s Heritage: An Adventure in Liberty*

Elementary School

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Activity Location

America’s Heritage: An Adventure in Liberty. Unit 10: America the Beautiful. pp. 163-166. ES.

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