

National Anthems of the World: A Guided Research Project

For this project, each student should have access to the internet and headphones.

Introduction: Read the following.

Each country of the world has unique kinds of music and instruments. But have you ever listened to national anthems from other countries? If you pay attention while watching the Olympics, you'll hear that even though the words are different, a lot of national anthems sound like each other. Why is that?

In this project, you'll learn more about the national anthem from another country.

Step 1: Instruct each student to open the following link: <http://www.nationalanthems.info/>
Hand out the attached handout with the list of words.

Step 2: Ask each student to select a country from the drop-down list at the top of the page. The countries are ordered alphabetically. Some countries will have multiple national anthems listed (for example, Afghanistan, Cambodia, or Spain). In that case, ask the students to choose only one.

Step 3: Instruct each student to read the information about the country and anthem on the page. Ask them to pay attention to the years the anthem was in use, the title, the composer, and the lyricist (the person who wrote the lyrics).

Step 4: Ask the student to play the midi recording of the anthem (the play button near the bottom of the page). Instruct them to pay attention to the melody and the rhythm. The midi recording does not have voices, but the student can read the English translation of the lyrics at the bottom right hand corner of the page. Ask the students to write down three words to describe the sound of the anthem or the feeling they get from the music. (Examples might include: somber, reflective, peaceful, spiritual, or like a march).

Step 5: In a new tab, ask the students to search for a recording of the anthem. They should search by the name of the country and the words national anthem, because searching by the song title alone might not get the right result (example: "Ghana national anthem"). YouTube will probably be a good place to look. As the students listen to the recordings and read the lyrics, ask them to find all the words used and themes discussed in the lyrics on the handout.

Step 6: Ask the students to come together again as a class. Ask them the following questions: Ask each student to say one word they wrote down to describe the music. Ask them to pay attention to words that more than one student wrote down.

Next, read each word from the word list handout. Ask each student to raise their hand if they circled that word. Keep track of the words used the most.

The final question for the students is: *Why do you think so many national anthems from all over the world have such similar themes?*



National Anthem Word List

As you read the lyrics to the national anthem you selected, circle any words used or topics discussed in the lyrics.

War Heroes Freedom Independence Land God Liberty Flag
Father Laws Death Fields Salvation Promises Struggle Blood
Mountains Democracy Banner Grace Bravery Nature Tradition
Kings Happiness Home Rights Oppression Oceans Animals Race
Marching Bread Mother Unity Arise Slavery Chains Soil Throne
Light Soul Justice Peace Heritage Labor Prosperity Name Faith
Crown Drum Success Fire