Our national anthem began as a poem celebrating a battle during the War of 1812. The song is better known than the war. What was the fight about? Why would a country as young as ours become involved in another war against Britain?

**Visit http://www.gatewayno.com/History/War1812.html.**

Why was the United States irritated with the British?

Why did the War Hawks want to go to war?

How did the war go for America in 1812–1813?

What happened to Washington, D.C., in 1814?

Describe Andrew Jackson's victory in New Orleans.

Explain the practice of impressment.

What did Thomas Jefferson hope to accomplish by passing the Embargo Act?

**Now go to http://www.usflag.org/francis.scott.key.html. It tells about the writer of "The Star-Spangled Banner."**

Who was Francis Scott Key and why did he go to Baltimore?

What inspired him to write "and the flag was still there"?

When was Key's poem adopted as our national anthem?

**Visit one more site: http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/ushistory/oldironsides.htm.**

Why can the USS Constitution be called a national ship?

Why was she important to the War of 1812?

Why was she nicknamed "Old Ironsides"?

**Extension Activity**

Make an illustration of the Star-Spangled Banner below.