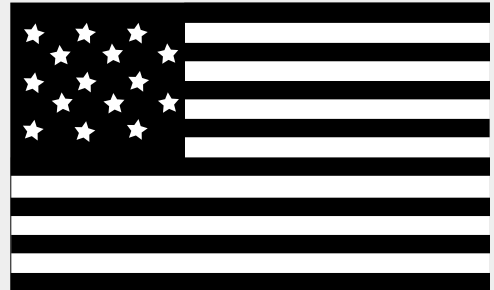


Historic American Flag Presentation

The program patrol presents the historic flag and song.

The Star-Spangled Banner

By 1795, Vermont and Kentucky had joined the Union, bringing the number of states to 15. The new flag, featuring 15 stars and 15 stripes, flew over the nation for the



next 23 years and the administrations of five presidents. It was this flag that flew over Fort McHenry the memorable night of its bombardment by the British in 1814, inspiring Francis Scott Key to write the verses of our national anthem.

The actual flag that flew over Fort McHenry that night is now preserved in the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

Let us honor the flag by singing the first verse of the song it inspired.

The Star-Spangled Banner

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
 What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming?
 Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
 O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
 And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
 Gave proof thro' 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?