

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Formative Assessment



This assessment is meant to measure progress towards the following standards:

- RI.3.3 Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.
- RI.3.4 Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area

**Specific focus for this assessment: Describe how people and events are connected in history using specific language from the text pertaining to time, sequence, or cause/effect.**

*Students will demonstrate understanding of the term “connected” as well as identify the given passage as either describing a Historical Event, a Scientific Idea or Concept, or a Procedure. Students will then answer comprehension questions as well as identify specific language from the passage that relates to time, sequence, or cause/effect.*

## Directions for Giving the Assessment:

Teachers will read the passage and questions aloud twice for the class. Students can then request for sections of the passage to be repeated.

While we know that *read aloud* is not an allowable accommodation on the reading portion of high-stakes testing, the purpose of this assessment is to measure reading comprehension...not independent reading comprehension.

Please give this assessment to your students on November 12<sup>th</sup>. We will discuss it during GPLC on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

# The Birth of our National Anthem

*Oh! Say can you see,  
By the dawn's early light...*

How many times have you sung those words? Have you ever wondered what they mean and where they came from? The person to thank is a man named Francis Scott Key. He was a lawyer and a poet in the years after the Revolutionary War.

Those were exciting times. America was newly independent from Great Britain. We were looking to expand west and to spread our wings as a new nation. But in 1812 we hit a big snag. We went to war with Great Britain.

The War of 1812 was a mess, and by 1814, we were losing badly. In August, the British marched into Washington, D.C., and stormed into the deserted White House, gobbled down a big dinner, and started setting fires. By the time they left, most of the city was in flames, including the White House, the Capitol building, and the Library of Congress.

Meanwhile, Mr. Key was worried about his good friend, Dr. William Beanes. He had been seized by British soldiers and taken prisoner on a British ship. Mr. Key didn't just sit around and wait for news. He went looking for the British fleet. He found them on the Potomac River. Dr. Beanes was there.

Mr. Key convinced the British that his friend had been imprisoned unfairly. They agreed to set him free. But not so fast. The British were about to launch an attack on Baltimore. The two Americans would have to wait on a ship and watch while the British bombed the city.

It was a terrible night. The British fired more than 1,500 bombs, and troops stormed the shore. The sky turned black with smoke. Mr. Key kept his stinging eyes on the enormous American flag hanging over Fort McHenry. As long as that flag was raised, the American troops were surviving.

In the morning, the bombing stopped and the smoke cleared. Our flag was still there! Mr. Key pulled an envelope out of his pocket and jotted down the words that would soon be famous: "Oh! Say, can you see, by the dawn's early light..."

When he returned to Washington, D.C., the words were set to music. Everyone loved the song. And in 1931 "The Star-Spangled Banner" became our national anthem.



1. What does "connected" mean?
  - a. To think deeply about something
  - b. When ideas or concepts are linked or related
  - c. To talk either in person or on the telephone
  - d. To tell what is the same and what is different
  
2. "The Birth of our National Anthem" is an example of which kind of text?
  - a. Literature (or Fiction)
  - b. Historical Event
  - c. Scientific Idea or Concept
  - d. Procedure
  
3. According to the passage, how are Francis Scott Key and Dr. William Beanes connected? Tell at least two ways they are connected.

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4. Which of the following phrases from the passage let the reader know that some time has passed? Circle all that apply.

- |                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| exciting times            | by the time         |
| gobbled down a big dinner | taken prisoner      |
| stormed the shore         | meanwhile           |
| in the morning            | imprisoned unfairly |

5. What does the word "jotted" mean as it is used in paragraph 7?

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6. Sequence following events using the boxes:

Mr. Key's eyes were stinging  
the flag still stood  
the smoke cleared

bombs and troops attacked Baltimore  
smoke filled the sky



1. What does "connected" mean?
  - a. To think deeply about something
  - b. When ideas or concepts are linked or related
  - c. To talk either in person or on the telephone
  - d. To tell what is the same and what is different
  
2. "The Birth of our National Anthem" is an example of which kind of text?
  - a. Literature (or Fiction)
  - b. Historical Event
  - c. Scientific Idea or Concept
  - d. Procedure
  
3. According to the passage, how are Francis Scott Key and Dr. William Beanes connected? Tell at least two ways they are connected.

- Francis Scott Key and Dr. William Beanes were good friends.
- Key convinced the British that Beanes was imprisoned unfairly.
- They were both kept on a British ship while the British bombed the city of Baltimore.

4. Which of the following phrases from the passage let the reader know that some time has passed? Circle all that apply.

exciting times  
 gobbled down a big dinner  
 stormed the shore  
 in the morning

by the time  
 taken prisoner  
 meanwhile  
 imprisoned unfairly

5. What does the word "jotted" mean as it is used in paragraph 7?

Students should say something similar to "writing" or "writing down words."

6. Order the following events using the boxes:

