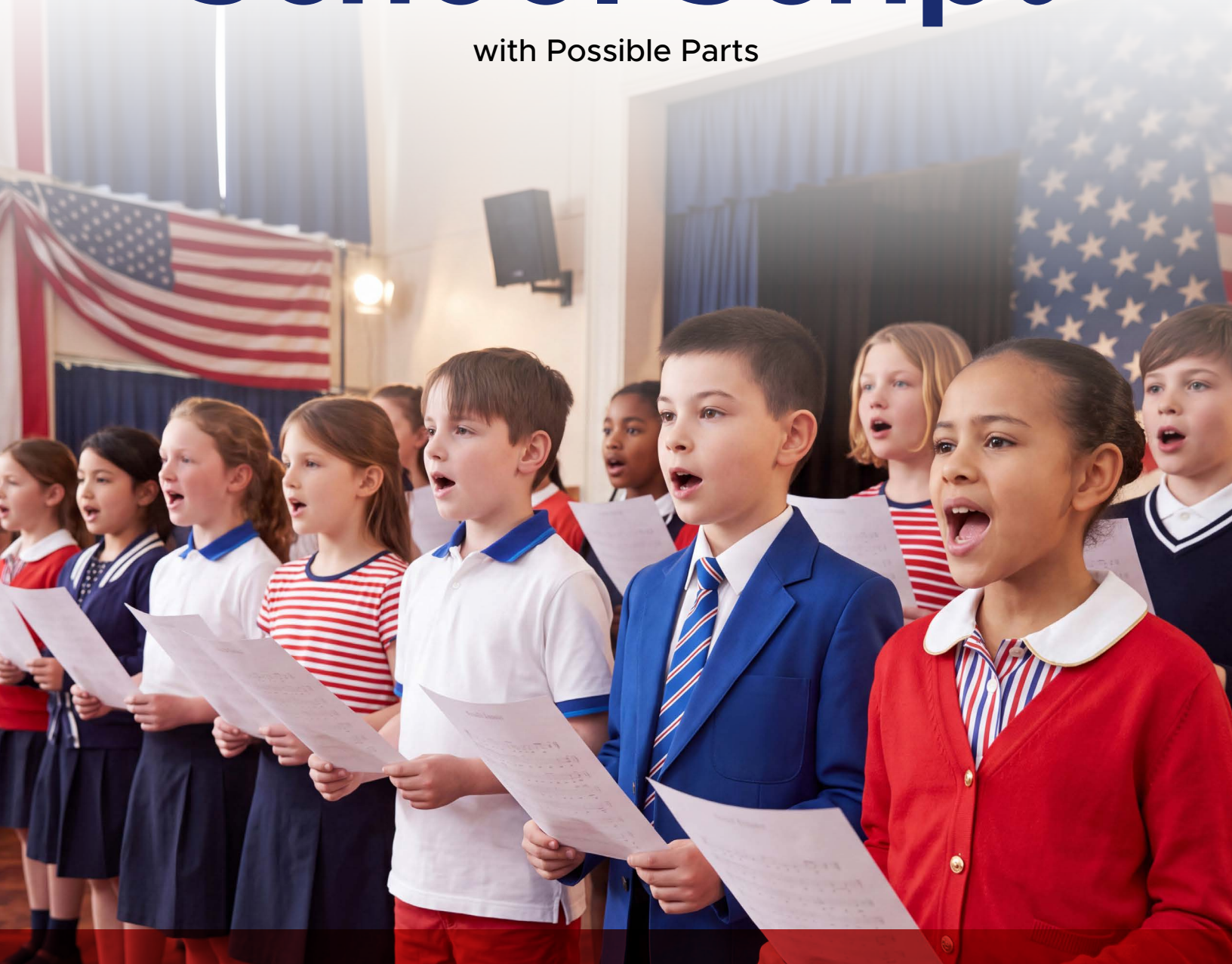




Elementary School Script

with Possible Parts



Welcome

This school year we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States of America.

For two and a half centuries, our nation has stood as a beacon of freedom, opportunity, courage, and hope.

Through times of triumph and challenge, Americans have continued to come together around the values that unite us—love of country, faith in one another, respect for our history, and gratitude for the freedoms we enjoy every day.

As we gather to commemorate this historic milestone, we focus on our common ground: our rich history, cherished traditions, and the enduring Spirit of America.

We reflect on the sacrifices that secured our liberty and honor those who continue to protect it today.

The Pledge of Allegiance Narration

More than 130 years ago, in 1892, a writer and minister named Francis Bellamy was asked to create a short pledge that schoolchildren across America could recite together.

His original words were simple: “I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

The pledge quickly spread across the country, helping unite a growing nation of people from many different backgrounds.

Over the years, the wording was updated. In the 1920s, “my Flag” became “the Flag of the United States of America,” and in 1954, the words “under God” were added, creating the version we know today.

Since then, generations of Americans—from students and teachers to veterans and service members—have recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Through times of challenge and triumph, its message has remained the same: that despite our differences, we are one nation, united by the ideals of liberty, justice, and opportunity for all.

And with that enduring spirit in mind, we’re proud to introduce a new musical tribute for the next generation: “I Pledge Allegiance.”

Grand Old Flag

One of the most beloved songs written about the American Flag is “You’re a Grand Old Flag” a classic patriotic march written by George M. Cohan in 1906 for his Broadway musical George Washington, Jr. It became the first song from a musical to sell over a million copies of sheet music.

The inspiration for the song came from an encounter Cohan had with a Civil War veteran. While chatting with the man—who had fought at the Battle of Gettysburg—Cohan noticed he was carrying a folded but tattered old American flag.

When Cohan commented on it, the veteran affectionately referred to the tattered banner as “a grand old rag”.

Cohan immediately loved the imagery and decided to write a song around the phrase. He originally titled the track “You’re a Grand Old Rag” but later changed the lyrics and title to “You’re a Grand Old Flag.”

The American Flag Narration

Have you ever wondered how the American flag got its stars and stripes?

Its story began during the American Revolution, when a young nation needed a symbol of unity and hope. In 1777, Congress adopted a flag with thirteen stripes and thirteen stars, representing the original states and a new nation taking its place in the world.

Many people know the story of Betsy Ross and the first flag. While historians still debate some of the details, early flag makers helped create a symbol that inspired generations of Americans.

As the nation grew, so did the flag. New stars were added for each new state, while the thirteen stripes remained as a tribute to the original colonies.

The Stars and Stripes has traveled wherever Americans have gone—from battlefields and ships at sea to historic moments of exploration, even reaching the Moon in 1969.

Today, with fifty stars and thirteen stripes, it stands as a powerful reminder of our history, our freedoms, and our shared ideals.

For nearly 250 years, the American flag has represented courage, service, and unity—a symbol that continues to inspire generations and bring Americans together.

The National Anthem

In 1814, during the War of 1812, a young lawyer named Francis Scott Key watched from a ship in Baltimore Harbor as British warships bombarded Fort McHenry through the night.

Amid the smoke, darkness, and exploding shells, he could only wonder if the fort—and the American flag flying above it—would survive.

When dawn arrived, Key looked toward the fort and saw the flag still waving proudly. Inspired by that powerful sight, he wrote the words that would become “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

Set to a popular melody, the song spread across the nation and became a cherished patriotic tradition. Then, in 1931, it was officially designated as the national anthem of the United States.

Today, more than 200 years later, Americans still stand and sing those familiar words—honoring the courage, resilience, and enduring spirit symbolized by the flag that inspired a nation.

Leaders of Tomorrow

And now as we celebrate our nation’s 250th year of independence.

We look back at our rich history and remember those who came before us, including our forefathers, outstanding figures and heroes who built our great nation.

We honor their legacy left behind and express gratitude for their sacrifices and leadership that led us to become a free country.

We also look ahead to the next 250 years... and as we do, our country turns to those who will carry our rich legacy into the future... it’s youth.

We are the future! The children of today are the LEADERS OF TOMORROW!

Tonight we pay tribute to those parents, teachers, individuals and organizations that empower us to become to be the leaders of tomorrow.

And with that enduring spirit in mind, we’re proud to introduce a new musical tribute for the next generation: “I Pledge Allegiance.”

Closing

For 250 years, generations of courageous men and women have worked, sacrificed, and served to preserve the freedoms and opportunities that define our nation.

Their commitment has helped ensure that the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence continue to inspire people not only here at home, but around the world.

Tonight, we have celebrated our common ground—our patriotism, our traditions, our history, and our shared gratitude for the nation we call home.

We have honored those who have worn the uniform, those who continue to serve, the families who stand beside them, and the countless citizens whose acts of service strengthen our communities every day.

To our veterans, active-duty military, first responders, and all who have sacrificed on behalf of others, we offer our deepest respect and heartfelt thanks.

Your courage and dedication remind us that freedom is a precious gift, one that has been earned and protected by generations of heroes.

As we commemorate America's 250th Anniversary, may we carry forward the values that have guided our nation since its founding—faith, courage, unity, gratitude, and hope.