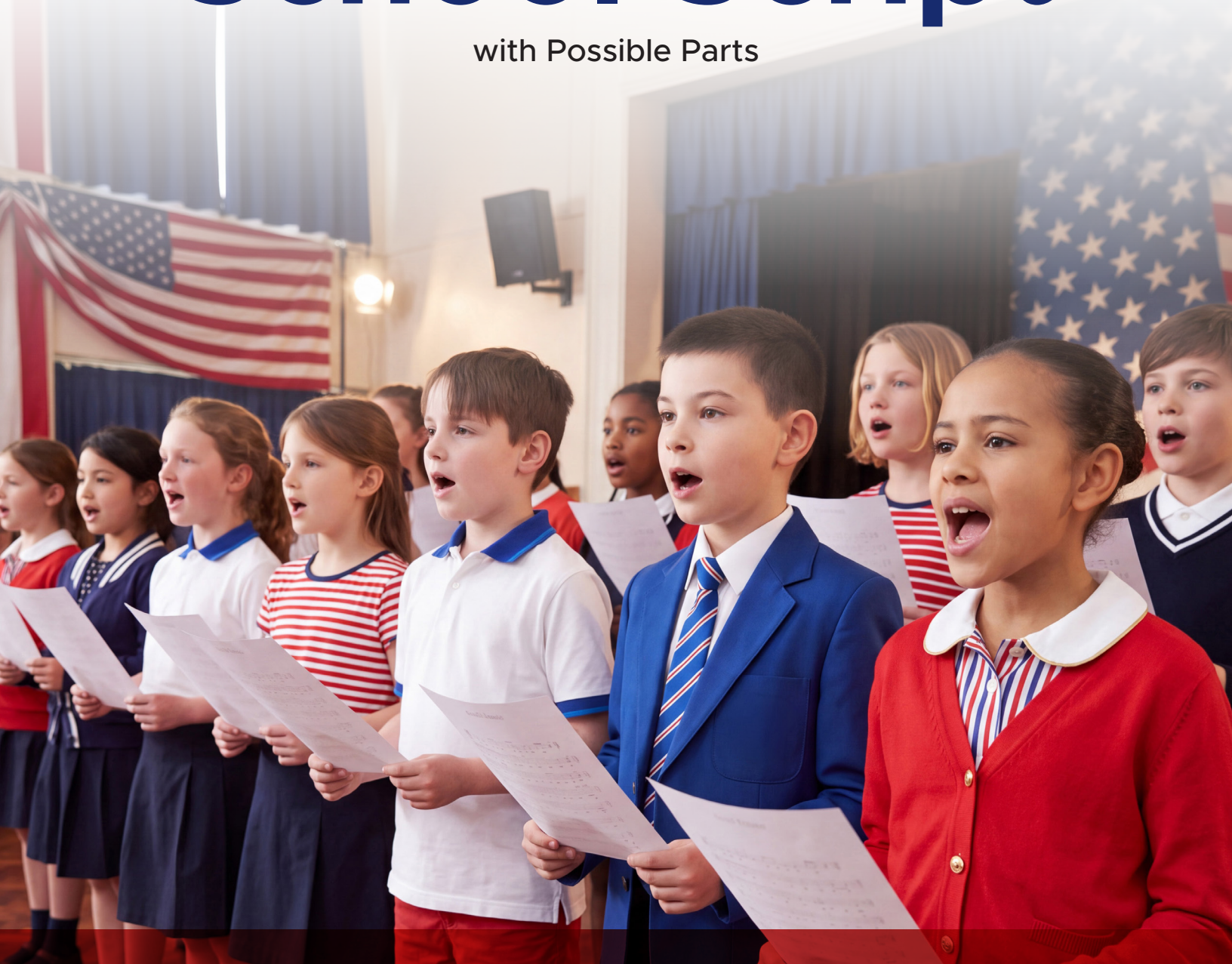




Elementary School Script

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.

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