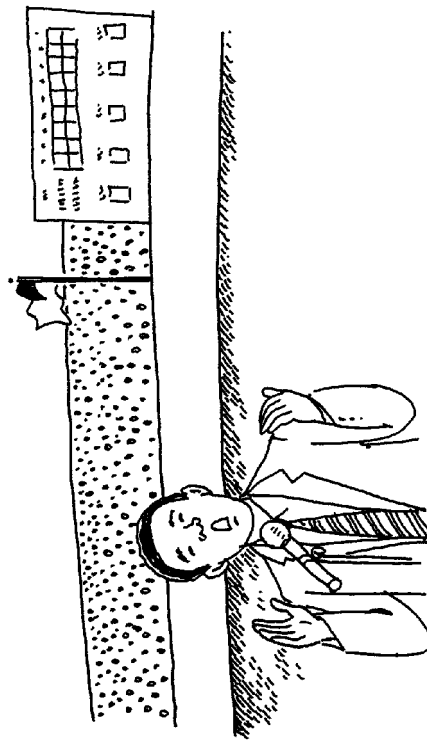
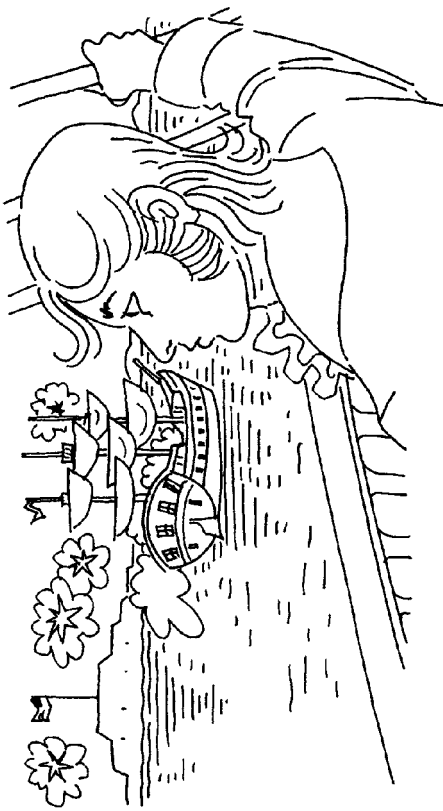


5 As the morning sun started to shine, the smoke lifted. Francis Scott Key could see the flag clearly now. It was red, white, and blue! America had won the battle!

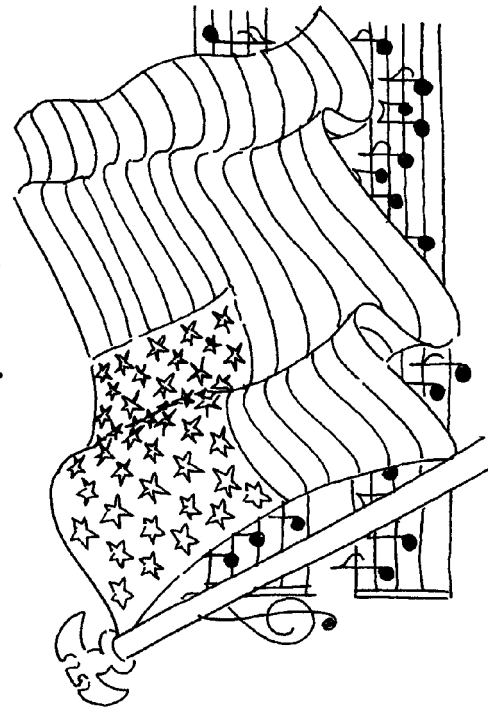


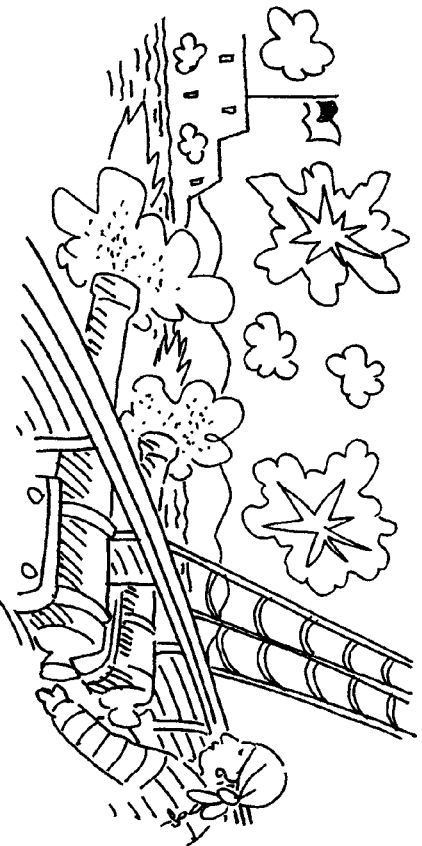
7 Americans sing the anthem at ball games and other sports events. They play it on national holidays. We feel proud when we hear "The Star-Spangled Banner."



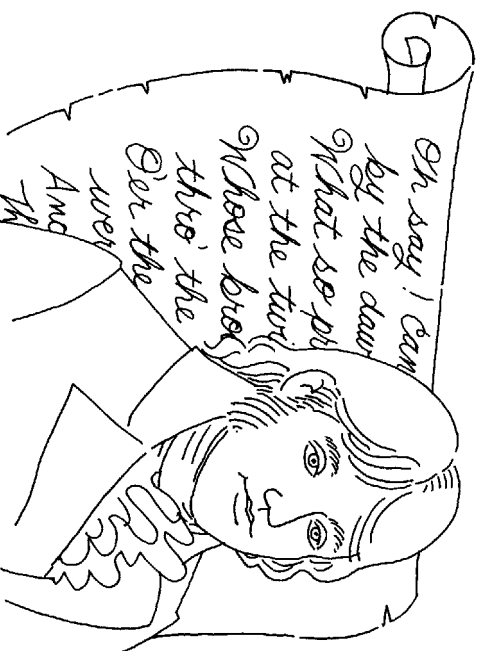
2 At that time, the War of 1812 was going on. America was fighting against England. One night, Francis Scott Key sat in a boat. He watched British ships fire their guns.

The Star-Spangled Banner





3 The British were shooting at Fort McHenry in Maryland. Francis Scott Key could not help his country. He could only watch while it was attacked.



1 “The Star-Spangled Banner” is our country’s national anthem. It is the song that stands for America. A man named Francis Scott Key wrote it in 1814.



4 All through the night, British guns fired. By morning, the gunfire stopped. Francis looked across the water at the fort. He could not tell whose flag he saw there.



6 Francis felt proud of America. He wrote a poem on the back of an envelope. His poem became famous. In 1931, Congress declared it our country’s national anthem.