The Stars and Stripes Forever
John Philip Sousa (1854-1932)

INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS
The Stars and Stripes Forever is arguably one of the most famous marches in the world, and was declared the National March of the United States in 1987. Sousa's other marches included El Capitan, The Pathfinder of Panama, Hands Across the Sea, Solid Men to the Front and The High School Cadets. Sousa also composed a number of pieces to encourage student bands and music education in U.S. schools: Marquette University March, University of Illinois March and University of Nebraska March.

LISTENING & MOVEMENT ACTIVITIES
- Listen for the “trio” section of The Stars and Stripes Forever and other marches. The second trio in The Stars and Stripes Forever contains the famous piccolo countermelody.
- March around the classroom in time to this famous march.

PRINTABLE ITEMS
- Page 1 of the score to The Stars and Stripes Forever
- Flute/Piccolo part shows the trio sections
- "March King – Three Themes” features a brief study of the themes in this piece and words to sing along with.
- Non-pitched percussion

MUSIC THEORY & MUSICAL TERMS
- march
- melody
- trio
- Sousaphone
- countermelody

SOUZA’S LIFE
- Composed more than 100 marches, many of which still are played today
- Known as the “March King”
- Born in Washington D.C., into a musical family. His father played trombone in the U.S. Marine Band.
- Started playing many instruments at an early age including the violin, trombone, piano, and about any instrument that could be blown.
- At age 13, he wanted to run away and join the circus but his father signed him up to play in the U.S. Marine band so he could keep an eye on his young son.
- In his 20s, was invited to become the new leader of the U.S. Marine Band, which frequently plays for the president. In 1892, he left and started a new band called Sousa’s New Marine Band.
- Conducted and wrote music for five different presidents. For many years, he was among the most famous entertainers in the world.
• Loved the low brass sounds in the band. The tuba was too heavy to carry and march around the field, so Sousa developed a new instrument called the Sousaphone. It distributes weight around the middle of the body and over the shoulder, which allows one to march and play more easily.
• Said that when he wanted to write a march, he would sometimes try to imagine scenes of battle with rifles firing and cannons exploding. He would hear the clanking of the swords and the sound of soldiers marching to the drum beat. Then, a tune would come to him.
• Wrote *The Stars and Stripes Forever* while on an ocean liner coming back from a tour abroad.

**WORLD EVENTS**
1861: U.S. Civil War begins, Sousa is 7 years old
1886: Statue of Liberty dedicated
1890: First moving-picture shows in New York
1893: Henry Ford builds his first car
1903: First flight by the Wright Brothers
1908: Earthquake in southern Italy kills 150,000 people

**SOURCES**
Adventures in Music, Grade 4, Vol. 2
Burdett, Silver. Making Music, Grade 4
Three Themes

On this recording you will hear three themes from Sousa's best-known march.

*The Stars and Stripes Forever* Themes

..............John Philip Sousa

**Theme 1**

![Music notation for Theme 1]

**Theme 2**

![Music notation for Theme 2]

**Theme 3**

![Music notation for Theme 3]

Listen for the three themes on this recording of Sousa's best-known march.

*The Stars and Stripes Forever*..............John Philip Sousa
Sousa wrote words for this march. When you have heard the piece several times, try singing them to the melody of Theme 3 when it comes in the music.

Hurrah for the flag of the free,
May it wave as our standard forever,
The gem of the land and the sea,
The banner of all the right!
Let despots remember the day
When our fathers with mighty endeavor
Proclaimed as they marched in the fray
That by their might and by their right
It waves forever!

**MEET THE COMPOSER**

John Philip Sousa (1854–1932)

John Philip Sousa is known as the March King of the world. He was born and grew up in our nation’s capital—Washington, D.C. Even as a little boy, he knew he wanted to be a musician. He often went to band rehearsals with his father, who played trombone in the United States Marine Band—the official band of the President of the United States. When Sousa was 26 years old, he became the director of this band and wrote some of his finest marches for it.

Sousa composed more than 100 marches during his lifetime. Many of these are played today by high school, college, and community bands throughout America. *The Stars and Stripes Forever* was Sousa’s favorite march—it is known all over the world.
Theme 3:

Hur - rah for the flag of the free,

May it wave as our stand - ard for - ev - er, The
gem of the land and the sea, The - ban - ner
of the right. Let des - pots re -
mem - ber the day, When our fa - thers with
might - y en - deav - or Pro - claimed as they
marched to the fray, That by their
so do re mi so so la mi re do
might, and by their right, it waves for - ev - er!
STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER

John Phillip Sousa

NON-PITCHED PERCUSSION

INSTRUMENTS:

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To match the number of measures in the score, play this page twice.

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The Stars and Stripes Forever.

MARCH.

Flute & Piccolo.

SOUSA.