Lyrics of Liberty

Tune into the spirit of America with this festive 4th of July crossword puzzle. Challenge yourself to fill in the missing blanks from the nation's most iconic patriotic songs and hymns. It's the perfect, brain-teasing addition to any holiday celebration!

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Across

1. From You're a Grand Old Flag: 'You're a high-flying _____.
4. From The Star-Spangled Banner: 'What so proudly we _____ at the twilight's last gleaming?
5. From The Battle Hymn of the Republic: 'His _____ is marching on.
10. From America the Beautiful: 'O beautiful for _____ skies, for amber waves of grain.'
11. From This Land Is Your Land: 'From California to the New York _____.
13. From The Star-Spangled Banner: 'And the rocket's red _____, the bombs bursting in air.'
14. From This Land Is Your Land: 'This land was made for _____ and me.

Down

1. From The Star-Spangled Banner: 'O'er the land of the _____ and the home of the brave?
2. From The Battle Hymn of the Republic: 'Mine eyes have seen the _____ of the coming of the Lord.
3. From My Country, 'Tis of Thee: 'Land where my _____ died, land of the Pilgrims' pride.'
6. From God Bless America: 'Stand _____ beside her, and guide her through the night...'
7. From Yankee Doodle: 'Stuck a feather in his hat and called it _____.
8. From My Country, 'Tis of Thee: 'Sweet land of _____, of thee I sing.'
9. From America the Beautiful: 'From sea to shining _____!
12. From God Bless America: '...Through the night with a _____ from above.

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https://www.thecontemporarychorale.org/seriousfun/crossword-puzzles/lyrics-liberty.

Note: The following pages include historical background notes and the Answer Key. Proceed only if you need hints or solutions!

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Historical Insight

The Star-Spangled Banner

- Written By: Francis Scott Key (1814)
- The Story: Key wrote the lyrics as a poem called "Defence of Fort M'Henry" after witnessing the intense British bombardment of the Baltimore fort during the War of 1812. It officially became the U.S. National Anthem in 1931.

America the Beautiful

- Written By: Katharine Lee Bates (Lyrics, 1893) & Samuel A. Ward (Music, 1882)
- The Story: Bates, a poet and professor, was inspired to write the poem after a trip to the summit of Pikes Peak in Colorado, where she looked out at the majestic rocky landscape. It is widely considered America's premier "alternative" national anthem.

God Bless America

- Written By: Irving Berlin (1918, revised 1938)
- The Story: Written during WWI but set aside, Berlin resurrected and tweaked the song twenty years later as WWII loomed in Europe. Singer Kate Smith's 1938 radio broadcast turned it into an instant, deeply emotional national hit.

This Land Is Your Land

- Written By: Woody Guthrie (1940)
- The Story: Guthrie wrote this iconic folk song as a critical, populist response to Irving Berlin's "God Bless America," which he felt was overplayed and ignored the struggles of regular Americans during the Great Depression.

My Country, 'Tis of Thee (America)

- Written By: Samuel Francis Smith (1831)
- The Story: Smith wrote the lyrics in just 30 minutes. Before "The Star-Spangled Banner" was officially adopted, this song served as one of the de facto national anthems of the United States, famously using the exact same melody as Britain's "God Save the King."

The Battle Hymn of the Republic

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- Written By: Julia Ward Howe (1861)
- The Story: Howe wrote these powerful, religious-tinged lyrics during the American Civil War after visiting a Union army camp. Sung to the tune of "John Brown's Body," it became the defining marching anthem for the Union forces.

You're a Grand Old Flag

- Written By: George M. Cohan (1906)
- The Story: This lively show tune was written for Cohan's Broadway musical George Washington, Jr. The song was originally titled "You're a Grand Old Rag," but Cohan changed it to "Flag" after people complained that calling the flag a "rag" was disrespectful.

Yankee Doodle

- Written By: Traditional (Origin dates back to the 1750s)
- The Story: British officers originally sang this tune to mock the disheveled, uncultured American "yankee" colonial soldiers during the French and Indian War. In a brilliant move of historical irony, American soldiers loved the song, claimed it as their own, and sang it back to the British during the Revolutionary War.

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Answer Key

Across

1. FLAG
4. HAILED
5. TRUTH
10. SPACIOUS
11. ISLAND
13. GLARE
14. YOU

Down

1. FREE
2. GLORY
3. FATHERS
6. BESIDE
7. MACARONI
8. LIBERTY
9. SEA
12. LIGHT

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