

Japanese Emperor and anthem (Tue 26 Apr, 2005)

WARM-UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about: Japan's Emperor Akihito / national anthem / flags / national symbols / Olympic Games... For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

NATIONAL ANTHEM: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with national anthems. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

FLAG QUIZ: Match the (nick)names of these flags to their countries:

The Cedar Tree	Ex-Soviet Union
Five Stars Red Flag	Australia / New Zealand
Tricolore	United Kingdom
Hinomaru	China
Union Jack	France
Maple Leaf	United States of America
Stars and Stripes	Israel
The Hammer and Sickle	Lebanon
The Southern Cross	Japan
Star of David	Canada

How does each of these flags make you feel?

How does your own flag make you feel?

NATIONAL ANTHEM QUIZ: Match these national anthems (some translated into English) to their countries:

La Marseillaise	Europe
The Star-Spangled Banner	UK and the Commonwealth
My Golden Bengal	Bhutan
Land of Mountains, Land on the River	Israel
Kimigayo	France
The Hope	Austria
The Thunder Dragon Kingdom	Japan
God Save the Queen	India
Ode "to Joy"	Brunei
God Bless the Sultan	Bangladesh
Thou Art the Ruler of the Minds of All People	USA

Can you sing or hum any of these anthems? How do they, or other national anthems, make you feel?

How does your own national anthem make you feel?

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PRE-READING

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'national' and 'anthem'.

TRUE / FALSE: Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true or false:

- a. Japan's national anthem and flag have been in the news a lot. T / F
- b. Japanese schoolchildren never sing their national anthem. T / F
- c. Hundreds of teachers were punished for not singing the anthem. T / F
- d. The Emperor has said students and teachers should face the flag and sing. T / F
- e. He said singing the anthem should be voluntary. T / F
- f. Japanese Olympics Games competitors have to sing their national anthem. T / F

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. | national | as an example |
| b. | in the news | his feelings |
| c. | teachers were punished last year | the flag |
| d. | face | for refusing to stand and sing |
| e. | He recently expressed | anthem |
| f. | acts | their anthem |
| g. | He used the Olympic Games | a lot |
| h. | competitors sing | of loyalty |

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READING:

GAP-FILL: Put the words on the right into the correct gaps.

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BNE: Japan's national anthem and flag have been in the _____ a lot in the past year. Many schools say their students and teachers must _____ the "Hinomaru" flag and sing the "Kimigayo" anthem. Almost 300 teachers were _____ last year for refusing to stand and sing the anthem in their schools. Japan's Emperor Akihito has _____ stated that students and teachers should not be _____ to face the flag and sing. He recently expressed his feelings about his citizens singing the Japanese national anthem: "All _____ of the world have national flags and anthems and I believe that it is important for schools to teach students to respect them". He said that any acts of _____ to the flag and anthem should be _____. He used the Olympic Games as an example: competitors sing their anthem or hold their flags because they want to, not because they are forced to.

forced
news
punished
voluntary
previously
loyalty
face
nations

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DISCUSSION

- a. What did you think of this article?
- b. Do you agree with what the Japanese Emperor said?
- c. Should the national anthem be sung in schools?
- d. Should the national anthem be sung in other public places, like cinemas?
- e. Is having a national anthem important?
- f. Do you know the words or meaning to your national anthem?
- g. Do you feel patriotic when you hear your national anthem?
- h. Are there other national anthems you like or hate?
- i. How do you feel when you hear your national anthem at the Olympics?
- j. What do you think of your national flag?
- k. Do you know the history of your flag and its design?
- l. Are you proud of your flag?
- m. Do you have your flag on any of your possessions?
- n. How would you feel if you saw foreigners burning your flag?
- o. Are there other national flags you like or hate?
- p. Did you like this discussion?
- q. Teacher / Student additional questions.

HOMEWORK

- 1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.
- 2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find information on your national anthem. Share your findings with your class next lesson.
- 3. WORLD ANTHEM:** Write the words to a world anthem (just in case aliens come to visit). Show your world anthem to your classmates in your next lesson.
- 4. MY FLAG:** Write a story about a time you felt particularly proud of your flag. Read your story to your classmates in your next lesson.

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SPEAKING:

NATIONAL THINGS: Complete the following table for your country and talk about what you wrote with your partner. Are the things you wrote down good examples or symbols of your country?

NATIONAL...	Thing or comment
anthem	
flag	
flower	
dish / food	
dress	
hero	
gallery	
university	
health system	
security	

WORLD FLAG COMMITTEE: Pairs / Groups – You are responsible for designing the new flag for the world, just in case we are visited by aliens. Decide together on the shape, colours, symbols etc. Present your flags to the rest of the class explaining the different choices behind the design. Vote on the best flag.

TEXT:

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BNE: Japan's national anthem and flag have been in the **news** a lot in the past year. Many schools say their students and teachers must **face** the "Hinomaru" flag and sing the "Kimigayo" anthem. Almost 300 teachers were **punished** last year for refusing to stand and sing the anthem in their schools. Japan's Emperor Akihito has **previously** stated that students and teachers should not be **forced** to face the flag and sing. He recently expressed his feelings about his citizens singing the Japanese national anthem: "All **nations** of the world have national flags and anthems and I believe that it is important for schools to teach students to respect them". He said that any acts of **loyalty** to the flag and anthem should be **voluntary**. He used the Olympic Games as an example: competitors sing their anthem or hold their flags because they want to, not because they are forced to.

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