

Japanese Emperor and anthem (Tue 26 Apr, 2005)

WARM-UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about: 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 headline and guess whether these sentences are true or false:

- a. Japan's Emperor refuses to comment on his national flag or anthem. T / F
- b. Journalists have carefully tried to get the Emperor's opinions on this issue. T / F
- c. Schools in Japan do not sing the national anthem. T / F
- d. Hundreds of teachers were punished for not singing the anthem. T / F
- e. The Emperor has said students and teachers should face the flag and sing. T / F
- f. He said acts of loyalty to flag and anthem should be voluntary. T / F
- g. He said the duty of Olympics Games competitors is to hold their flag. T / F
- h. His conclusion was that allegiance to flag and anthem is a personal affair. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | | |
|----|-------------|-------------|
| a. | clarify | whipped up |
| b. | allegiance | free-willed |
| c. | extract | aired |
| d. | stirred | pry out |
| e. | patriotic | spell out |
| f. | intimated | shows |
| g. | relayed | contemplate |
| h. | acts | jingoistic |
| i. | voluntary | suggested |
| j. | think about | obedience |

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

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. | attempted to | symbols |
| b. | citizens' allegiance | the flag and sing |
| c. | extract the | twelve months |
| d. | national | Emperor's opinions |
| e. | in the past twelve | clarify |
| f. | had previously | citizens |
| g. | face | his latest thoughts |
| h. | He relayed | intimated |
| i. | acts | to their national anthem and flag |
| j. | individual | of loyalty |

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READING:

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

Japanese Emperor and anthem

BNE: Japan's Emperor Akihito has _____ to clarify his feelings regarding his citizens' _____ to their national anthem and flag. Journalists have constantly, but carefully, tried to _____ the Emperor's opinions on this issue that has stirred a lot of emotion of late. Japan's national symbols have been the centre of a patriotic controversy this past year, with many schools _____ students and teachers to face the "Hinomaru" flag and sing the "Kimigayo" anthem. Almost 300 teachers have been _____ in the past twelve months for _____ to stand and sing the anthem in their schools.

forcing
refusing
allegiance
punished
attempted
extract

The Emperor had _____ intimated that students and teachers should not be forced to face the flag and sing. He _____ his latest thoughts on the issue yesterday: "All nations of the world have national flags and anthems and I believe that it is important for schools to teach students to _____ them". He said that any acts of _____ to flag and anthem should be _____, as in an Olympic Games competitor singing their anthem or holding their flag: "Regarding the national anthem and national flag, it is best if _____ citizens think about the matter themselves."

relayed
loyalty
individual
voluntary
previously
respect

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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 the reasons behind 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. Are national anthems and flags dangerous?
- q. Did you like this discussion?
- r. 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 STUFF: Complete the following table for your country and talk about what you wrote with your partner. Are the things you wrote positive or accurate representations 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:

Japanese Emperor and anthem

BNE: Japan's Emperor Akihito has **attempted** to clarify his feelings regarding his citizens' **allegiance** to their national anthem and flag. Journalists have constantly, but carefully, tried to **extract** the Emperor's opinions on this issue that has stirred a lot of emotion of late. Japan's national symbols have been the centre of a patriotic controversy this past year, with many schools **forcing** students and teachers to face the "Hinomaru" flag and sing the "Kimigayo" anthem. Almost 300 teachers have been **punished** in the past twelve months for **refusing** to stand and sing the anthem in their schools.

The Emperor had **previously** intimated that students and teachers should not be forced to face the flag and sing. He **relied** his latest thoughts on the issue yesterday: "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 flag and anthem should be **voluntary**, as in an Olympic Games competitor singing their anthem or holding their flag: "Regarding the national anthem and national flag, it is best if **individual** citizens think about the matter themselves."

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