My America, the Beautiful

Story Summary

“America the Beautiful” is one of the most popular patriotic songs in the United States of America. Based on the original lyrics by Katharine Lee Bates, My America, the Beautiful is a modern day take on the classic tune. This catchy sing-along celebrates diversity, unity, freedom and the greatest ideals of the American dream.

Follow a single piece of thread as it weaves through history and various quintessential scenes of Americana, as people of different cultures and creed join together in celebration of unity.

Lesson Focus

Diversity: The people of America are wonderfully diverse. Different interests, ethnicities, and experiences give each person a unique perspective. Let's celebrate our differences, learn from each other, and discover that diversity is what makes America truly beautiful.

Activity Ideas

America the Poster

Write each letter of “AMERICA” on a separate piece of paper or poster board. Have children decorate and arrange the letters to spell America. See if there are other words they can spell with these letters, like:
CAR, RAM, ACE, AIM, CRAM, MICE, ACRE, CAMERA...

Additional activities can be found in the following pages of this document.
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My America, the Beautiful is a modern day take on the classic tune. This catchy sing-along celebrates diversity, unity, freedom and the greatest ideals of the American dream.

What is My America, the Beautiful about?

What places have you visited in the United States? Where would you like to go?

What does diversity mean? How would you describe where you live?

The song goes “Oh, America! America! Let’s sing with open hearts.” What does that mean to you?

The last line in the story is, “What stitches us together is much more than what pulls us apart.” What brings people together or apart?

Together

Apart

Discuss ways we can all apply these words to our family and friendships.

Discuss the story and write your answers together.

Share stories of places you’ve been, what you enjoyed, and where you’d still like to go someday.

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0:42
What does diversity mean? How many examples of diversity can you name in America?

1:32
Katharine Lee Bates was inspired to write these stanzas of “America the Beautiful” while viewing the Rockies from Pike’s Peak in Colorado. Have you ever been anywhere that was so beautiful that it would inspire you to write about it?

1:53
What does “and crown our good with brotherhood” mean? What is brotherhood and what activities do you participate in that show brotherhood?

2:59
Who are the heroes in your life?

3:45
What kinds of sorrows are there for America? For your class? For your family?

After viewing the Book:

1. Write a poem/song about your family.
2. Create a collage that represents your family.
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Draw a picture of something that makes America beautiful to you. Then complete the sentence below.

America is beautiful to me because ____________________________

NAME
Diversity Dice
My America, the Beautiful

The people of America are wonderfully diverse. Different interests, ethnicities, and experiences give each person a unique perspective. Let’s celebrate our differences, learn from each other, and discover that diversity is what makes America truly beautiful.

This game is a great way to discuss the similarities and differences that make us, well... us. After all, “What stitches us together is much more than what pulls us apart.”

How to play
1. Cut out the dice and assemble with glue.
2. Roll the dice and have each child answer the question that is face up.
3. Compare answers and encourage the children to recognize similarities and differences between every answer.
My beautiful America stands strong and tall and free. It’s built on freedom, sacrifice, and rich diversity.