

Name _____

Main Idea

- The **main idea** is the author's most important point about a topic.
- Sometimes the main idea is not stated directly in a selection, but the details of a selection can give you clues.

Directions Read the following passages. Then write down the main idea and list two details from the passage that support your answer. **Possible responses given.**

Our flag has thirteen stripes to remind us of our first colonies. There is a star for each state. The colors all mean

something. Red is for hardiness, white is for innocence, blue stands for justice. Betsy Ross sewed the first flag.

1. Main idea: **Everything about our flag is symbolic.**

2. Supporting detail: **Each of the colors stands for something.**

3. Supporting detail: **The thirteen stripes remind us of our colonies.**

Francis Scott Key watched the British attack during the War of 1812. When he looked out after a terrible battle, he saw that our flag was still waving. This

inspired him to write a poem about it, *The Star Spangled Banner*, which was set to music. This song later became our national anthem.

4. Main idea: **Francis Scott Key wrote our national anthem.**

5. Supporting detail: **He was inspired by watching a battle.**

6. Supporting detail: **He wrote a poem that was set to music.**