

# Writing a National Anthem

If you like to sing or can play an instrument, you're ahead of the game here. If not, don't worry — you can always "borrow" a national anthem from some small, helpless country that doesn't have an army to come after you.

**Some things to keep in mind when composing an anthem:**

- Instruments with big sounds, such as drums and trumpets, give any piece of music oomph and are great for national anthems.

- Be sure to sing your anthem out loud before formally adopting it. Better still, imagine 20 000 fans at a baseball game singing it. Because that's the thing about anthems — they are meant to be belted out, and not all of those belters will have good voices.

- Make it patriotic. Including some of the following words will help: glory, freedom, victory, honor, courage, motherland, homeland, strong, true.

- Pick a catchy tune. Here are some you might consider adapting: "Home on the Range," "Walking on Sunshine," "Do Your Ears Hang Low."

## A Fill-in-the-Blanks National Anthem

(Sung to the tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm")

Hail \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and true. We stand tall for you!  
*name of country* *adjective*

A micronation that's brand new. Home to just a few.

With some \_\_\_\_\_ here and some \_\_\_\_\_ there.  
*plural noun* *plural noun*

Here a \_\_\_\_\_, there a \_\_\_\_\_, everywhere a \_\_\_\_\_.  
*noun* *noun* *plural noun*

Hail \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and true.  
*name of country* *adjective*

We \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for you!  
*verb* *verb*

## STEP #2: Run the Country

Running a country is a bit like having pet fish. You have to take care of the fish or bad things will happen (to the fish). Actually, looking after a population is a lot more work than that because your citizens won't be satisfied with just food and clean water. They will expect big things, such as a

justice system, a government and an economy, and smaller things, such as roads, schools and hospitals. These are the necessities that will help them lead healthy and prosperous lives. And if your citizens are healthy and prosperous, your country will be, too.

