

AMERICA'S FAVORITE

MUSIC U SHOW

SONGBOOK

**This book is dedicated to the
men and women who have served
in the U. S. military!**



This book belongs to:



PragerU is redefining how people think about media and education. Watched millions of times every day, PragerU is the world's leading nonprofit with educational, entertaining, pro-American videos for every age. From intellectual, fact-based 5-Minute Videos and powerful personal storytelling to animated shows made just for kids—PragerU helps people of all ages think and live better.

PragerU Kids teaches history, civics, financial literacy, and American values to children across the K-12th grade spectrum. With kids shows, books, and educational resources for every grade, PragerU Kids offers content that parents and teachers trust and children love. Watch for free and learn more at PragerUkids.com.

All text and illustrations Copyright © 2026 Prager University Foundation.

All rights reserved, including the right of reproduction in whole or in part in any form.

PragerU is a registered trademark of Prager University Foundation.

Published by PragerU

PragerU.com

★ ★ ★
AMERICA'S
FAVORITE

MUSIC SHOW
★ ★ ★



SONGBOOK

Table of Contents



The Star-Spangled Banner

The Pledge of Allegiance	12
The Star-Spangled Banner	14
You're a Grand Old Flag	16



America the Beautiful

America the Beautiful	20
America: My Country 'Tis of Thee	22



Military Songs

The Army Goes Rolling Along (Army)	26
Marines' Hymn (Marines)	28
Anchors Aweigh (Navy)	30
Semper Paratus (Coast Guard)	32



Frontier Songs

Home on the Range	36
Whoopee Ti Yi Yo (Git Along, Little Dogies)	38
Red River Valley	40



Railroad Songs

I've Been Working on the Railroad	44
Low Bridge, Everybody Down	
(Fifteen Miles on the Erie Canal)	46
Drill, Ye Tarriers, Drill	48



Folk Songs

Oh! Susanna	52
Daisy Bell (Bicycle Built for Two)	54
My Bonnie	56

Appendix: Sheet Music



The Star-Spangled Banner	60
You're a Grand Old Flag	61
America the Beautiful	62
America: My Country 'Tis of Thee	63
The Army Goes Rolling Along (Army)	64
Marines' Hymn (Marines)	65
Anchors Aweigh (Navy)	66
Semper Paratus (Coast Guard)	67
Home on the Range	68
Whoopee Ti Yi Yo (Git Along, Little Dogies)	69
Red River Valley	70
I've Been Working on the Railroad	71
Low Bridge, Everybody Down (Fifteen Miles on the Erie Canal)	72
Drill, Ye Tarriers, Drill	73
Oh! Susanna	74
Daisy Bell (Bicycle Built for Two)	75
My Bonnie	76



How To Use this Book:

This songbook invites your family to explore the music and cultural heritage of the United States of America. From patriotic melodies and military anthems to the catchy folk songs of the frontier, these songs celebrate the heart, soul, and sound of our great nation.

Each song reminds us of the values Americans have sung about for generations—gratitude for God’s blessings, love for our beautiful land, courage, freedom, and the spirit of hard work. These themes will emerge throughout the book, helping every American develop cultural literacy and learn basic American folk songs.

Why does this matter? Cultural literacy means knowing the shared stories, symbols, and songs that connect all Americans. When children recognize these songs, they’re not just singing or reciting words, but giving voice to the enduring values that continue to inspire each generation—250 years and counting.



For each song, you can:

- Read the story behind the lyrics and gain a better understanding of the cultural highlights and history that shaped each song.
- Sing the chorus aloud as a family—a simple way to make the song memorable and fun.
- Play along using the chord charts in the appendix if you have a piano, guitar, or other instrument at home.
- Scan the QR codes to watch the corresponding PragerU Kids' video episodes or to listen to the songs.

Whether you are reading, singing, playing, or listening, this book is meant to bring families together through the inspirational music that has helped shape America.



The Star-Spangled Banner



These songs celebrate the
history and traditions of
our national flag.





The Pledge of Allegiance

Written by: Francis Bellamy

Every morning in classrooms across America, children stand, turn toward the flag, and place their hands over their hearts. Together, they begin: “I pledge allegiance to the flag...”

This tradition began long ago, when a man named Francis Bellamy wanted children to have special words they could say to honor our flag. So, he wrote the Pledge of Allegiance—a promise to the American flag and everything it stands for.

Here are some of the important words from the pledge.

Allegiance: This means we will be loyal to our country.

Republic: This means the people help choose their leaders.

Indivisible: This means we are one nation, all together, not split apart.

Liberty and Justice For All: This means everyone should be free and treated fairly, no matter who they are.

Many years later, the words “under God” were added to remind us that we look to God for guidance and help. So each day, when children say the pledge, they are doing something important. With their hands over their hearts and their eyes on the flag, they are saying: “I promise to be a good citizen. I promise to stand with my country. I promise to remember what America stands for.”

And that is a promise worth keeping.





"I pledge **allegiance** to the Flag
of the **United States of America**,
and to the Republic for which it stands,
one Nation **under God**,
indivisible, with liberty and **justice for all.**"



Watch the
episode!



The Star-Spangled Banner

Written by: Francis Scott Key
Music by: John Stafford Smith

This song tells a special story about courage and hope. It goes like this: long ago, when America had already won its freedom from Britain, the two countries fought again. On a dark night during the War of 1812, big British ships fired their cannons at an American fort. *Boom! Bang!* The night sky lit up with fire and smoke. Watching from a boat nearby was a man named Francis Scott Key. He was very worried. All night long, he looked toward the fort and wondered, *Will the American flag still be there in the morning?*

At last, the sun began to rise. The smoke slowly cleared. Francis looked closely...and there it was! High above the fort, the American flag was still waving—bright, strong, and full of stars. America had not given up. Francis felt hope fill his heart. He wrote a poem about what he had seen, which later became a song called “The Star-Spangled Banner.” “Star-spangled” means covered with shining stars—just like our flag.

Today, this song is our national anthem. When we hear it, we stand tall, take off our hats, and place our right hands over our hearts. We remember that long night, that brave flag, and the answer to Francis’s question.

Yes, our flag is still there, and it always will be.



"O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose **broad stripes** and **bright stars** through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the **rockets' red glare**, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was **still there**;
O say does that **star-spangled banner** yet wave
O'er the **land of the free**
and the **home of the brave?**"



Watch the episode!

You're a Grand Old Flag

Written and composed by: George M. Cohan

Do you have a favorite blanket or a special toy that's old and worn, but you still love it anyway? Many years ago, a man named George M. Cohan met a soldier who had something just like that. The soldier had an old, faded American flag, but he held it carefully and proudly.

"This," the soldier said, "is a grand old rag."

Those words stayed in George's heart, and he turned them into a song. At first, he called it "You're a Grand Old Rag." But some people thought the flag deserved more respect. So George changed the name to "You're a Grand Old Flag." And that's how the song we sing today was born.

When we sing it, we celebrate our flag and the colors it carries. Red reminds us to be brave. White reminds us to have pure hearts. Blue reminds us to keep going and never give up. The song also teaches us something important. It says, "Where there's never a boast or brag." That means loving America isn't about showing off how great we are, but about having a quiet, deep love for the things our country stands for.

And just like that old flag in the soldier's hands, this song reminds us that the things we love most are the ones that have been with us through it all.





" You're a grand old flag,
You're a high-flying flag,
And forever in peace may you wave!
You're the emblem of
The land I love—
The home of the **free** and the **brave**!
Every heart beats true
'Neath the **red, white, and blue**
Where there's never a boast or brag.
But should auld acquaintance be forgot,
Keep your eye on the **grand old flag!**"



Watch the episode!



America the Beautiful





Learn about the songs
inspired by the unique
natural beauty of our
country.



America the Beautiful

Written by: Katharine Lee Bates

Music by: Samuel A. Ward

Have you ever taken a special trip and seen a field full of flowers or a massive mountain covered in snow? Well, there once was a teacher named Katharine Lee Bates who took a big trip like that. It was summertime, and Katharine traveled all across America.

She visited a great fair in the city of Chicago, and later on her journey, she took a wagon ride high up a tall mountain in Colorado called Pikes Peak. When Katharine reached the top, what she saw took her breath away.

There were wide open skies stretching far away. Purple mountains stood tall in the distance. Golden fields of grain shone in the sunlight. Katharine thought it was the most beautiful land she'd ever seen, so she wrote a poem about it.

Her words painted a picture of America's beauty, but they also shared something more. They reminded people not just to see the land, but to care for it, to be kind, and to live up to the country's goodness. Later, her poem became a song called "America the Beautiful."

When we sing it today, we're doing more than just describing mountains and skies. We are saying "thank you" for the beauty around us. And we are celebrating the blessings of living in a land that is free.

Because America is more than a place we live; it's something we carry in our hearts.



"O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!

America! America!

God shed His grace on thee,

And crown thy good
with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!"



Watch the episode!

America: My Country 'Tis of Thee

Written by: Francis Samuel Smith

When someone sings to you on your birthday, it makes you feel really special.

A long time ago, a man named Samuel Francis Smith wanted to do something like that for America. He was a student studying about God and the Bible, and one day, someone gave him a stack of music books.

As Samuel flipped through the pages, he found a tune he really liked. It stayed in his mind, and soon he had an idea. He would write new words to that music all about America. He called it "My Country, 'Tis of Thee."

Some of the words in Samuel's song sound kind of old-fashioned because he lived many years ago. "'Tis" means "it is," and "thee" means you. So the name of the song really means "My country, it is you I'm singing about."

Before long, the song was ready to be shared. And who sang it first? A group of children—just like you—at a church on the Fourth of July, America's birthday! That made the song feel even more joyful and full of meaning.

When we sing it today, we are doing something simple but important. We're saying, "I love my country, and this song is for you, America!"





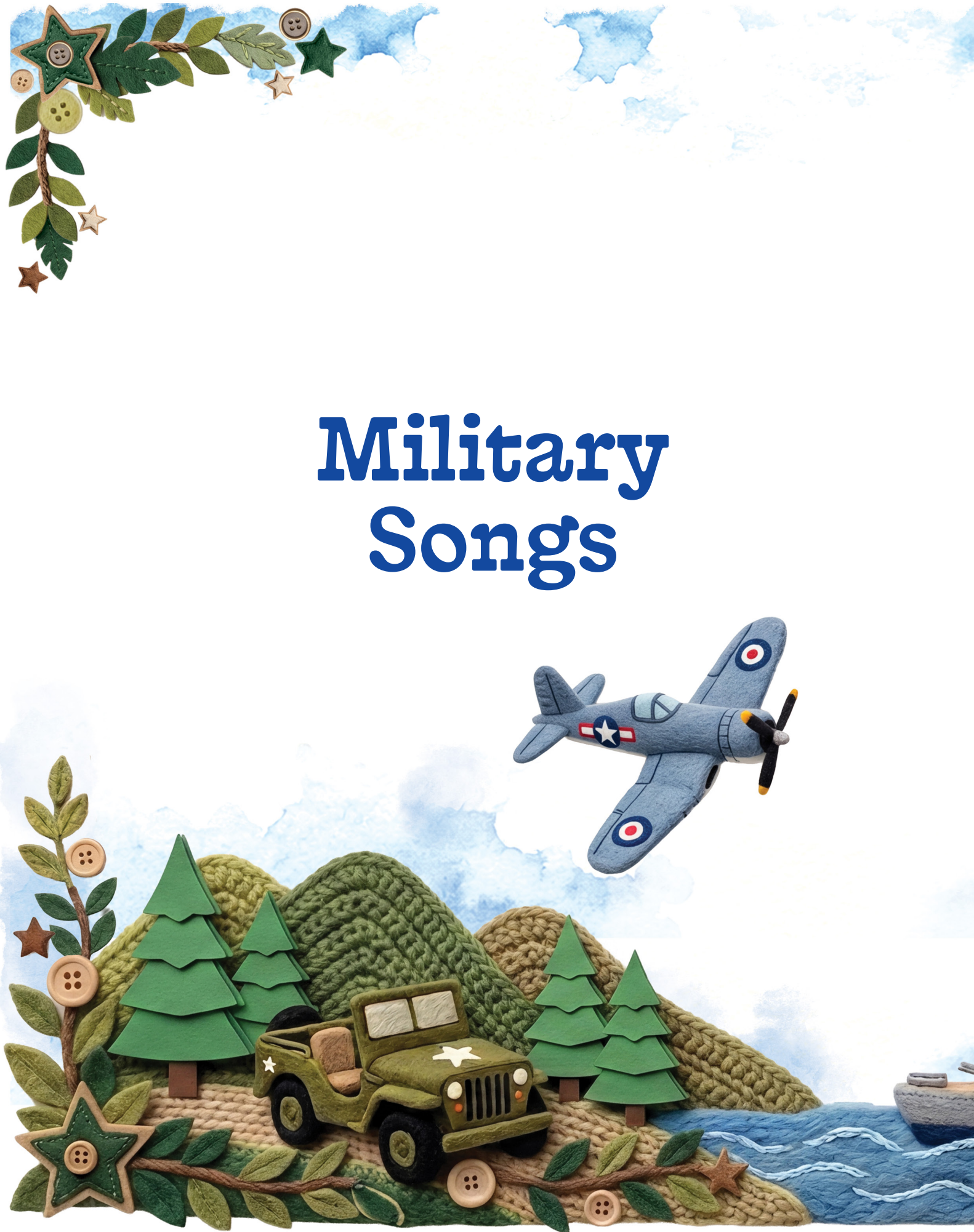
Watch the episode!



"My country 'tis of thee
Sweet land of **liberty**
Of thee I sing
Land where my fathers died
Land of the pilgrims' pride
From ev'ry mountainside
Let freedom ring!"



Military Songs





Our military is such an important reason why our country remains free. Learn about the different military branches and how their songs came about!



The Army Goes Rolling Along

Official song of the United States Army

Have you ever heard a group of people marching together? Their footsteps go *left, right, left*, all in a steady rhythm. That's the kind of sound that inspired an Army officer named Edmund Gruber a long time ago.

Edmund heard the sounds of soldiers on the move—wagons rumbling, boots marching, and metal clanging as they carried cannons and supplies. *Clang! Clank! Clang!* To Edmund, those were the perfect sounds to make a song, and he called his "The Army Goes Rolling Along."

The song quickly became a favorite. Soldiers loved to sing it together as they traveled, marching down dusty roads or resting by the campfire at night. As their voices joined in song, it reminded them that they weren't alone—they were part of a team with an important mission.

Years later, the Army added new words and made it their official song. Today, soldiers and their families proudly sing it at celebrations and ceremonies. It's a song full of energy, pride, and teamwork, just like the Army itself!



"First to fight for the right,
And to build the nation's might,
And the Army goes rolling along!

Proud of all we have done,
Fighting 'til the battle's won,
And the Army goes rolling along!

Then it's **hi! Hi! Hey!**
The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadence loud
and strong;
For where'er we go,
You will always know
That the Army goes rolling along!"



Watch the episode!

The Marines' Hymn

Official song of the United States Marines

If you've ever been asked to go first, you know that can sometimes be a little scary. There's a special group in our military called the Marines, and they are often the first to go when our country needs help. That means they must be brave, strong, and ready for anything.

Their special song is called "The Marines' Hymn." A hymn is a song of praise that can honor God, a country, or a group of people. This hymn is the oldest song of all the military branches.

Because this song came first, it is bold and powerful, just like the Marines themselves. The words tell stories of battles the Marines fought long ago, in distant lands and right here on our own shores. When they sing it together, their voices rise strong and steady, like one big team. You can feel the pride in their voices as they stand side by side, ready to serve and protect wherever they are needed.

As the music plays, Marines remember the courage, honor, and commitment their group has shown for many years. It also reminds them they are part of something bigger.

No one knows who wrote the words, but the music came from a man named Jacques Offenbach, who lived in France. Today, when we hear this hymn, it helps us remember to say thank you to the brave heroes who protect our freedom.



Watch the episode!





**"From the
Halls of Montezuma**

**To the shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country's battles**

In the air,

on land,

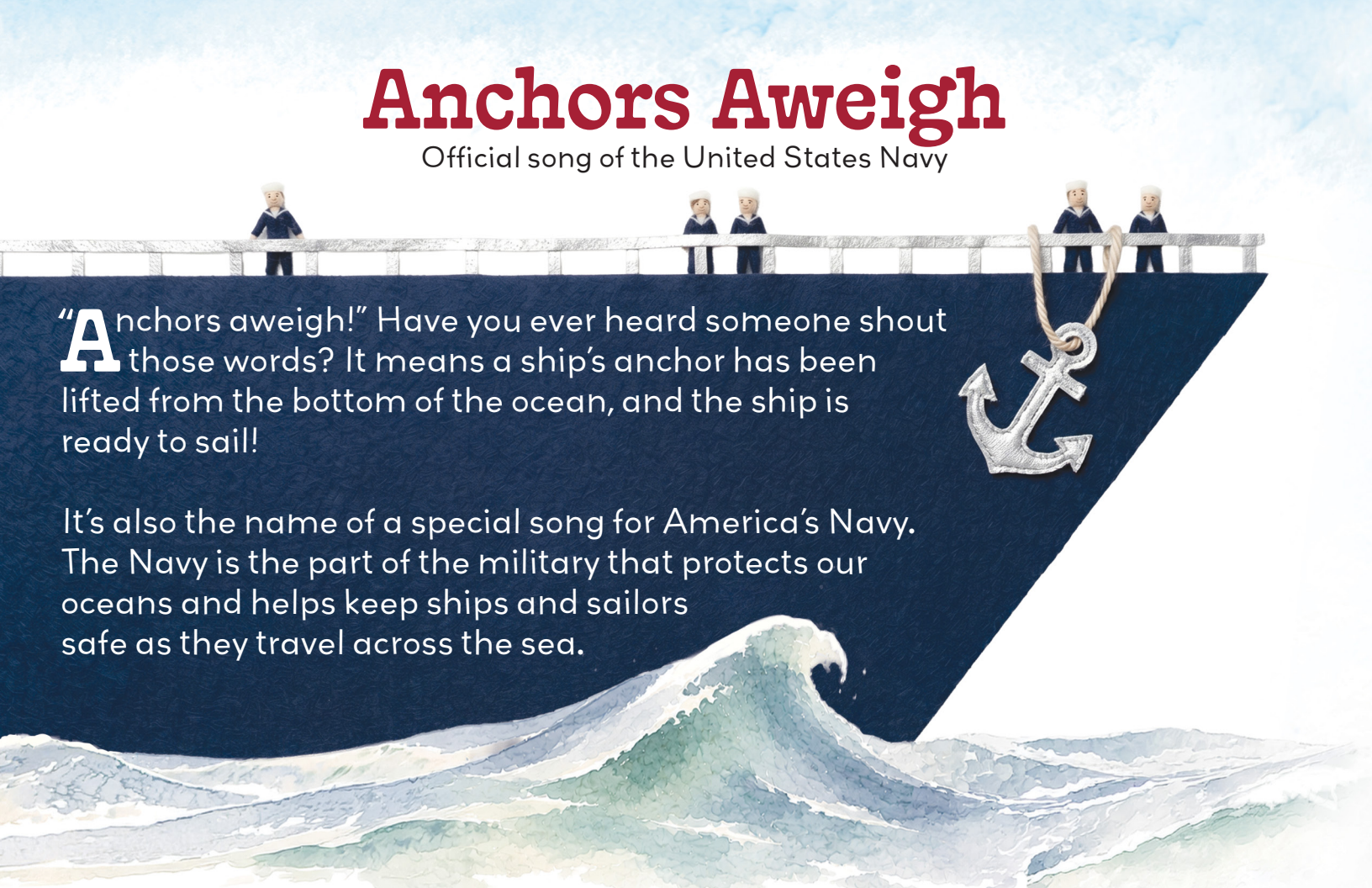
and sea;



**First to fight
for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title
Of United States Marine!"**

Anchors Aweigh

Official song of the United States Navy



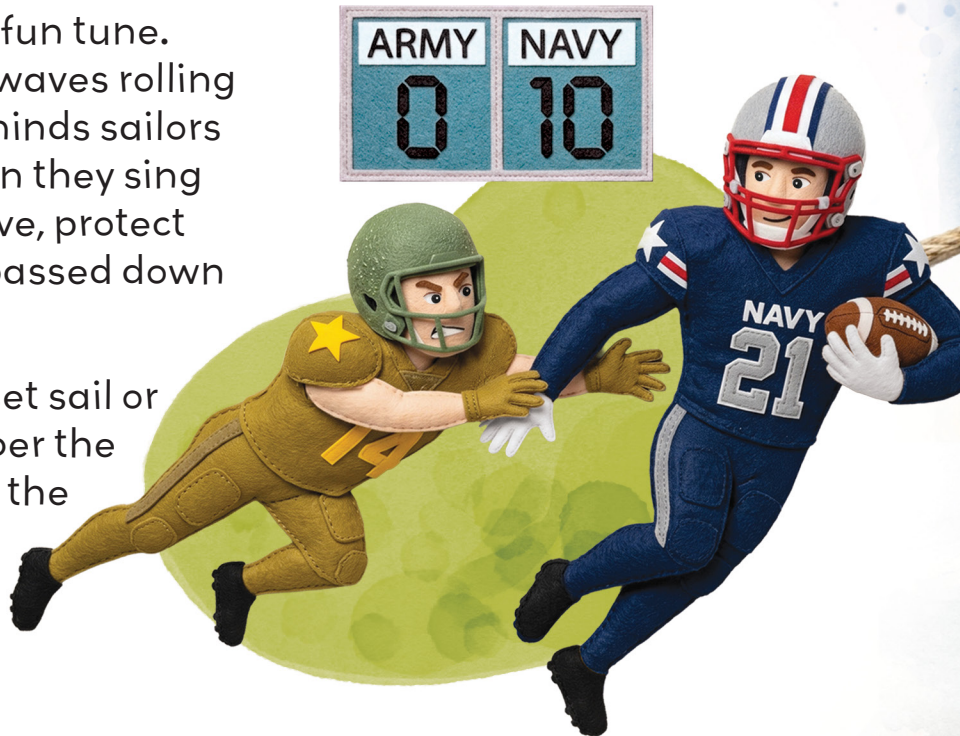
"Anchors aweigh!" Have you ever heard someone shout those words? It means a ship's anchor has been lifted from the bottom of the ocean, and the ship is ready to sail!

It's also the name of a special song for America's Navy. The Navy is the part of the military that protects our oceans and helps keep ships and sailors safe as they travel across the sea.

Long ago, at a school where sailors trained to serve in the Navy and Marines, there was a band teacher named Charles Zimmerman. He loved to write music. One of his students, Alfred Hart Miles, asked him to create a fun marching song for a big school football game. Together, they wrote "Anchors Aweigh," and it was first played at an Army vs. Navy game in 1906. And guess what? The Navy won!

But the song is more than just a fun tune. With a lively beat that feels like waves rolling and ships moving forward, it reminds sailors of their important mission. When they sing it together, they feel proud to serve, protect others, and carry on a tradition passed down for many generations.

So the next time you see a ship set sail or hear "Anchors Aweigh," remember the brave sailors who journey across the deep blue sea—and wish them well on their way!



**"Anchors Aweigh, my boys,
Anchors Aweigh.**



Farewell to college joys,
we sail at break of
day-ay-ay-ay.

Through our last night on shore,
drink to the foam,

Until we meet once more:
Here's wishing you a happy voyage home!"



Watch the episode!

Semper Paratus

Official song of the United States Coast Guard

Have you ever seen a big storm roll across the ocean, with waves crashing and winds howling? Imagine being out on the water and needing help right away. That's when the Coast Guard comes in.

The Coast Guard is a special group in our military that helps people in trouble at sea. They rescue those in danger, help during floods and storms, and make sure everyone stays safe on the water.

Their motto is "*Semper Paratus*," which means "always ready."



A long time ago, a man named Francis Saltus Van Boskerck—people called him Captain Van—wanted to turn that important idea into a song. He wrote both the words and the music, and it became the official song of the Coast Guard.

The song has a steady, rolling rhythm, like waves moving across the sea. When Coast Guardsmen sing it, it reminds them to stay calm, be brave, and rush to help whenever someone is in need—day or night, in sunshine or storm.

Today, when we hear this song, we can think of the brave rescuers who head into rough waters and remember that being "always ready" means caring for people when they need it most.



"We're always ready for the call,
We place our trust in Thee.
Through **surf** and **storm**

"**Semper Paratus**" is our guide,
To fight to save or fight and die,

and **howling gale**,
High shall our purpose be.
Our fame, our glory, too.

Aye!

Coast Guard
we are for
YOU!

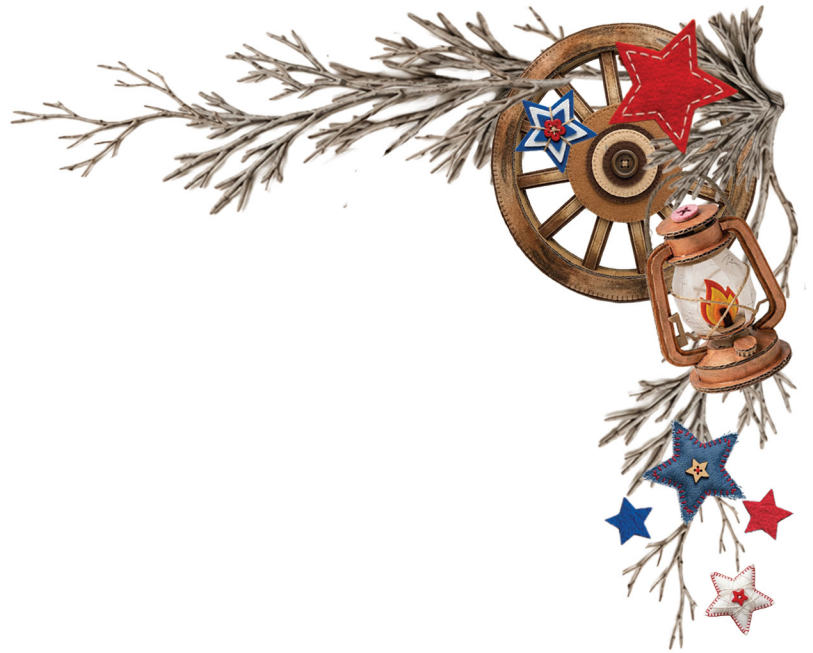


Watch the episode!



Frontier Songs





The westward growth
of our country's
frontier inspired these
songs that soon became
part of American culture!



Home on the Range

Written by: Brewster M. Higley VI

Music by: Daniel E. Kelley



Before there were cars, people traveled by horse or wagon. Back then, America was still growing, and many families went west to spread out and find new homes. They traveled far across wide open plains, rushing rivers, and even over tall mountains. There weren't always paths to follow, so people had to find their own way.

One of those people was a doctor named Brewster Higley. He moved to Kansas and built a home near a small creek on the prairie. The land was quiet and beautiful, filled with sunshine, tall grass, and animals roaming free. Dr. Higley loved his new home so much that he wrote a poem about it called "My Western Home." His friend Daniel Kelley added music to it, and it was renamed "Home on the Range."

Soon, people all across the West were singing the song! Cowboys sang it by the campfire after a long day of work, and families sang it as they traveled or rested at home. The gentle song reminded them of the peaceful land around them and gave them hope on their journey.

Today, "Home on the Range" is the state song of Kansas. When we sing it, we remember the wide-open spaces of the American West and the people who found a home there.





Watch the episode!



"Oh, give me a home
where the buffalo roam,
Where the **deer**
and the **antelope** play;
Where seldom is heard
a discouraging word,
And the skies are not cloudy all day.

Home, home on the range,

Where the deer and the antelope play,
Where seldom is heard
a discouraging word,
And the skies
are not cloudy
all day."



Whoopee Ti Yi Yo (Git Along, Little Dogies)

Written by: Author unknown

When we think of cowboys, we often picture them as brave and strong. But cowboys also had an important job—they took care of animals!

The song “Git Along, Little Dogies” is about a cowboy on a cattle drive. That means he helped move a big group of cows, called cattle, across the open land to find fresh grass to eat.

In this song, the cowboy is taking care of baby cows called dogies (say it like *doh-gees*). These little calves didn’t have their mothers with them, so the cowboy helped guide them and keep them safe along the trail.

When the cowboy sings, “Git along, little dogies,” he’s really saying, “Keep moving!” And when you hear “Whoopee ti yi yo,” that’s not a real word. It’s a fun cowboy call, kind of like saying “Yee-haw!” Cowboys used sounds like this to keep a steady rhythm as they rode and to make their long days feel a little more fun.

No one knows exactly who wrote this song. Like many songs of the American West, the words were made up and changed as they were passed along, like a game of telephone. When we sing the song today, we remember the hard but important work of cowboys. They cared for animals, helped each other, and looked after the land. Just like them, we can show kindness to the people, animals, and beautiful land all around us.



"As I walked out
one mornin' for pleasure,
I spied a cowpuncher a-riding alone;
His hat was **threwed back**,
and his spurs were **a-jinglin'**
As he approached me **a-singin'** this song.
Whoopee ti yi yo,
git along, little dogies,
It's your misfortune and none of my own;
Whoopee ti yi yo,
git along, little dogies,
You know that **Wyoming**
will be your new home."



Watch the episode!



Red River Valley

Written by: Author unknown



Have you ever heard a love song? Love songs help us feel close to people we care about, even when they're far away. The frontier song "Red River Valley" is a gentle song about saying goodbye to someone special.

This song is about a real place called the Red River Valley. Long ago, people who lived there began singing this song to tell a story.

The story is about a woman who met a soldier and grew to care for him. But one day, the soldier had to leave. As he went away, the woman sang to him, asking him to remember her. Her song was full of love and a little bit of sadness.

As the song traveled across the American West, cowboys began to sing it, too. You can imagine them riding under big open skies, with the sun setting in the distance, softly singing as they thought about people they missed back home. Sometimes they changed the words to fit their own stories, and over time, it became known as a cowboy song about saying goodbye.

When we sing "Red River Valley" today, we remember the stories of people who lived long ago and used music to share their feelings for the ones they loved. Like them, we can sing these words to keep our loved ones close to our hearts wherever we go.



"From this valley they say **you** are going,
We will miss your bright eyes
and sweet smile,
For they say you are taking
the **sunshine**
that brightens
our **pathway** a while.

Come and
sit by my side
if you love me;
Do not hasten to bid me **adieu**,
But remember the
Red River Valley
And the girl who
loved you so true."



Watch the episode!



Railroad Songs



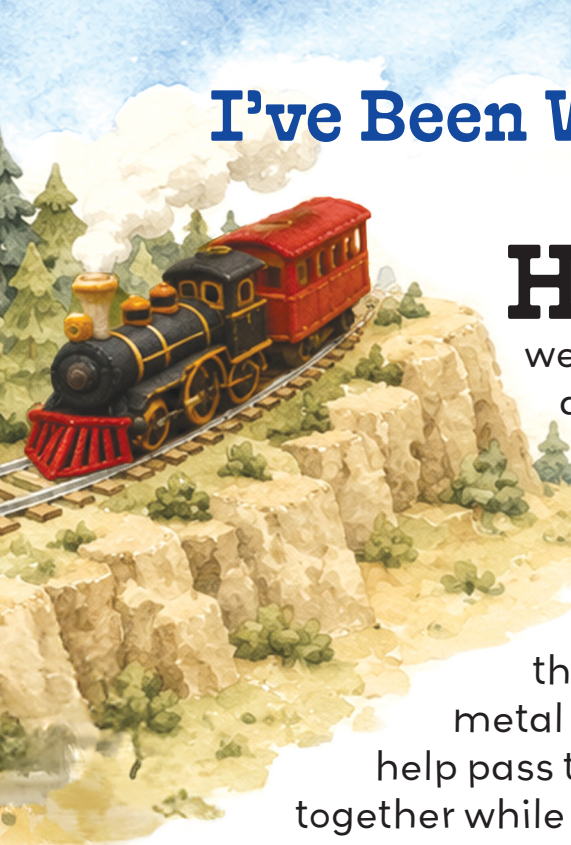


The burden of hard work
was made lighter when
American voices joined
together in song!



I've Been Working on the Railroad

Written by: Author unknown



Have you ever heard a train whistle go “choo-choo”? Riding a train can be a lot of fun! Long ago, trains were one of the most important ways people traveled across America.

The folk song “I’ve Been Working on the Railroad” comes from a time when people were busy building those railroads. It was very hard work. Workers spent long days outside in the hot sun, strong wind, or pouring rain, laying heavy metal tracks through fields, mountains, and forests. To help pass the time and keep their spirits up, they sang songs together while they worked.

Some of the words in the song are playful. When they sing, “Dinah, won’t you blow your horn,” it sounds like they’re asking for a cheerful “toot-toot” of the train whistle to keep everyone going.

Because of this hard work, railroads helped connect faraway places, from the East Coast all the way to the West Coast. They made it easier for people to travel, share goods, and stay connected. The railroad helped America grow into one big, united country.

When we sing this song today, we remember the workers whose strength and teamwork helped build something so important. Next time you hear a train go “choo-choo,” you can think of the people who worked together to make that journey possible!

**"I've been working on the railroad,
All the live-long day.**

**I've been working on the railroad,
Just to pass the time away.
Can't you hear the whistle blowing?
Rise up so early in the morn.
Can't you hear the captain shouting?**

'Dinah, blow your horn!'

**Dinah, won't you blow,
Dinah, won't you blow,
Dinah, won't you blow your horn?**

**Dinah, won't you blow,
Dinah, won't you blow,
Dinah, won't
you blow your
horn?"**



Watch the episode!



Low Bridge, Everybody Down (Fifteen Miles on the Erie Canal)

Written by: Thomas Allen

Before the whistle of trains and the rumble of cars, there was the slow “clop-clop” of mules’ hooves. Mules are strong animals, and long ago they helped pull boats along special waterways called canals. Walking beside the water on narrow paths, they pulled long, flat boats called barges filled with goods like wood, hay, and coal.

The song “Fifteen Miles on the Erie Canal” tells the forgotten story of this important work in America’s past. Before engines powered boats, mule drivers guided their animals for miles each day. People knew they could count on these steady mules to move goods where they needed to go.

The song was first called “Low Bridge, Everybody Down,” because riders on the mules and people on the barges had to duck under low bridges along the canal. The Erie Canal stretched across New York from Albany to Buffalo—cities you can still find on a map today! Because of the canal, it became much easier to move goods across the country, and New York grew into a busy center of trade and travel.

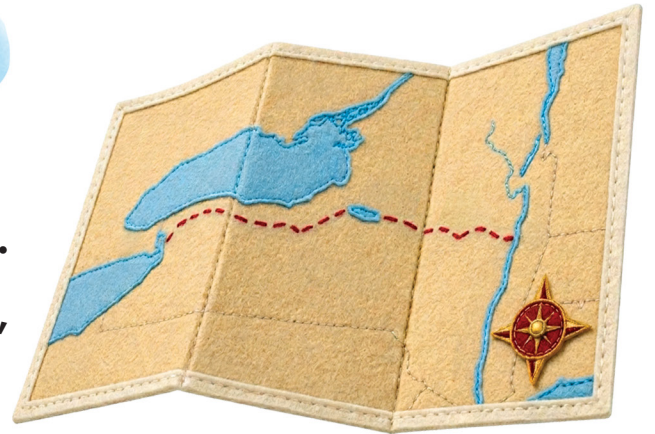
When we sing this song today, imagine the gentle splash of water and the steady “clop-clop” of hooves. It reminds us of the teamwork that helped connect our country and share its resources with everyone.



Watch the episode!



" I've got a mule and her name is **Sal**,
Fifteen miles on the **Erie Canal**.
She's a good old worker
and a good old pal,
Fifteen miles on the **Erie Canal**.



We haul'd some barges in our day,
Filled with **lumber, coal, and hay**.
And we know every inch of the way,
From **Albany to Buffalo**.

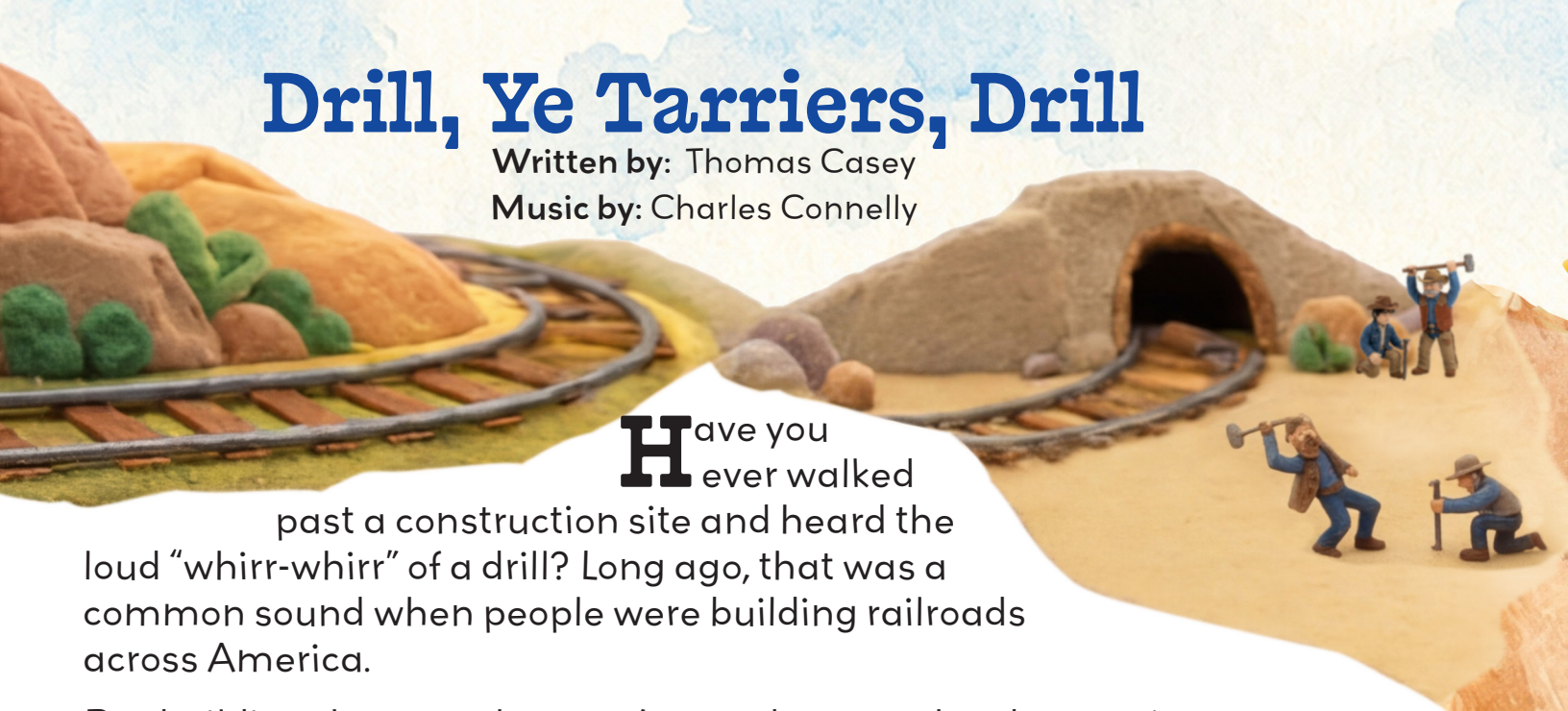
Low bridge, everybody down.
Low bridge, yeah we're coming to a town.
And you'll always know your neighbor,
And you'll always know your pal
If ya ever navigated on the
Erie Canal."



Drill, Ye Tarriers, Drill

Written by: Thomas Casey

Music by: Charles Connelly



Have you ever walked past a construction site and heard the loud “whirr-whirr” of a drill? Long ago, that was a common sound when people were building railroads across America.

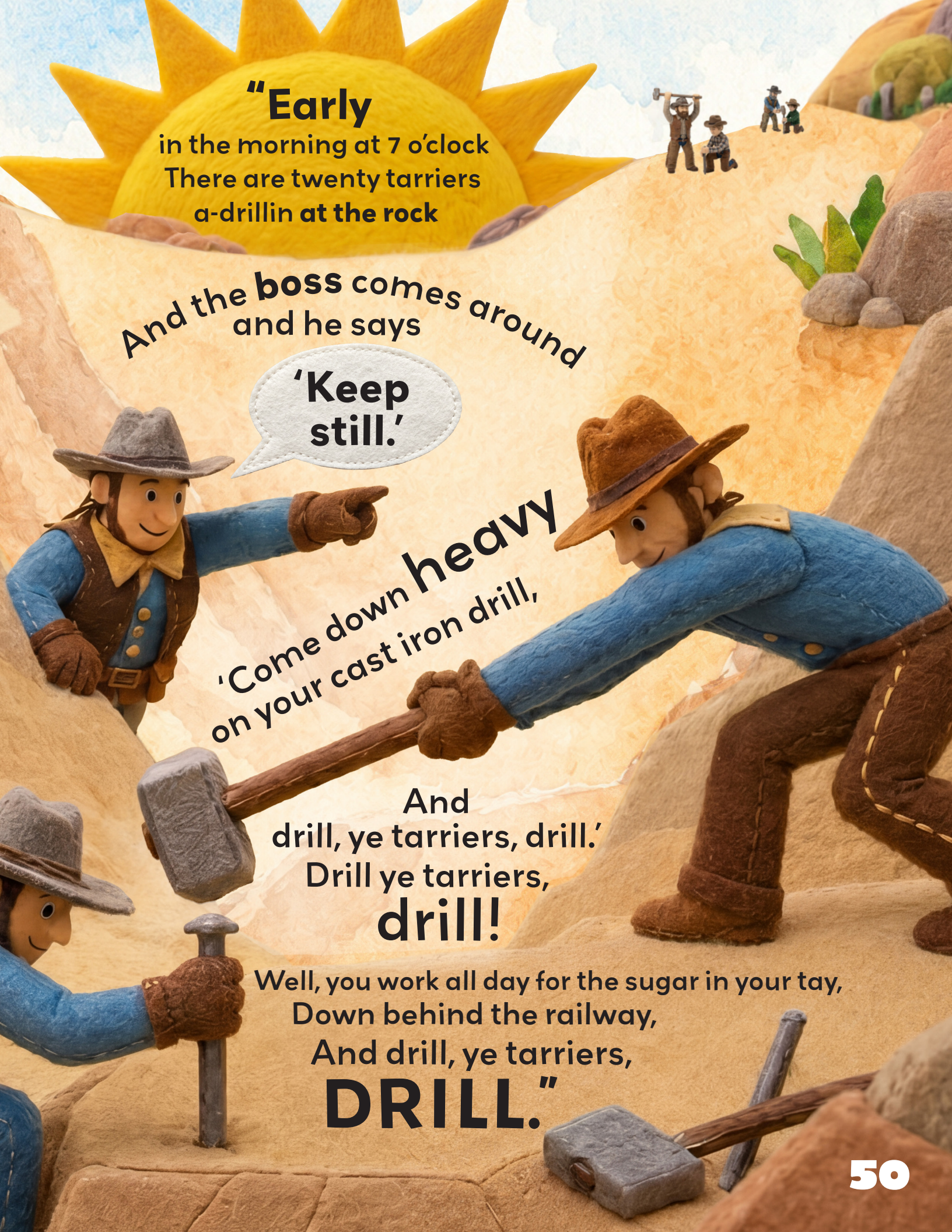
But building these tracks wasn’t easy. It meant hard, sometimes dangerous work using strong tools. The folk song “Drill, Ye Tarriers, Drill” tells the story of these workers. In the song, the workers are called “tarriers” because they used heavy drills to make deep holes in the ground. These holes were then blasted with powerful dynamite to break apart the rock so the tracks could be laid.

The song uses humor to tell its story. It describes a worker being blasted high into the air and then joking about losing some of his pay for the time he was up there. While it may sound silly, it also reminds us that these workers had tough jobs and often earned very little money.

Folk songs like this helped workers share their feelings and experiences. When we hear this song today, we remember the people who worked hard to build the railroads—and how music can help tell stories about fairness, respect, and working together to grow our country.



Watch the episode!

A colorful illustration of a mining scene. A large, bright yellow sun with pointed rays is in the upper left. In the background, there are rolling hills and several small figures of miners. In the foreground, three miners are shown. One miner on the left is pointing towards the center. Another miner on the right is leaning forward, holding a large wooden handle. A third miner at the bottom left is using a drill. The ground is sandy and rocky, with some green plants. The text is overlaid on the scene.

"Early

in the morning at 7 o'clock
There are twenty tarriers
a-drillin at the rock

And the **boss** comes around
and he says

**'Keep
still.'**

**'Come down heavy
on your cast iron drill,**

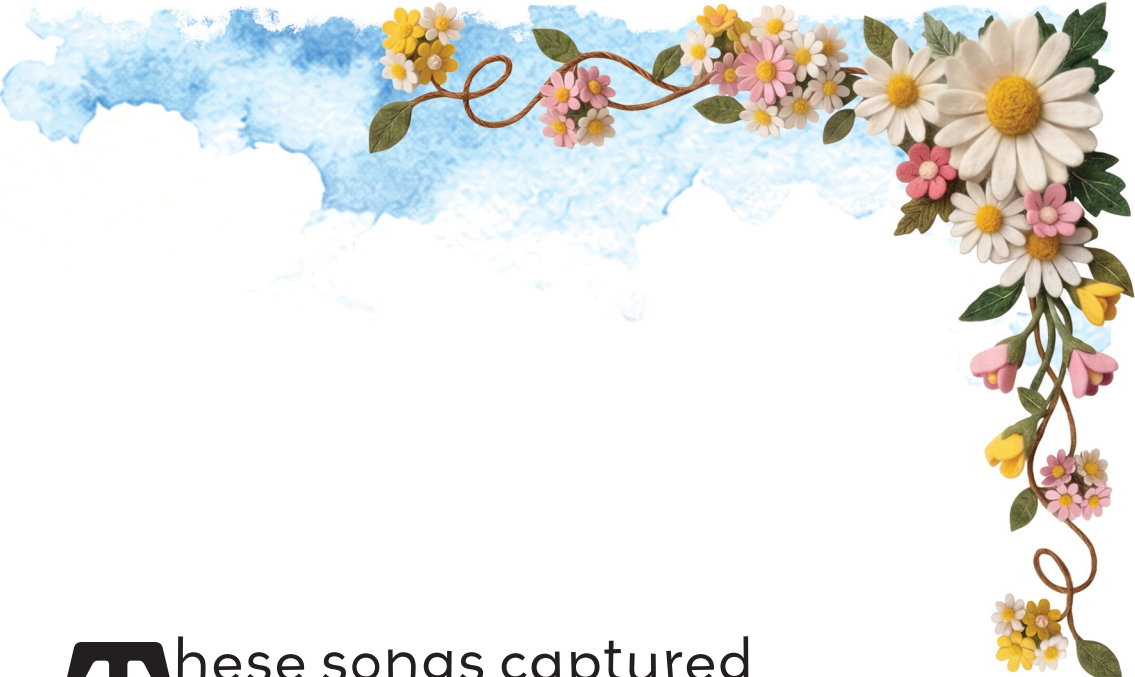
And
drill, ye tarriers, drill.'
Drill ye tarriers,
drill!

Well, you work all day for the sugar in your tay,
Down behind the railway,
And drill, ye tarriers,
DRILL."



Folk Songs





These songs captured aspects of American life, either through their humor or timeless themes of love and romance.



Oh! Susanna

Written by: Stephen Foster

If you've ever pretended to be someone else just for fun, that's called acting. Long ago, before movies and TV, people would gather to watch live performances where music and storytelling were a big part of the fun.

A man named Stephen Foster enjoyed these shows and wanted to write his own song that was just as lively and entertaining. That song was "Oh! Susanna," and once people heard it, they couldn't stop singing it! The song tells about a man traveling from Alabama to Louisiana to find his true love, a woman named Susanna. Some of the lyrics are silly, like "the sun so hot I froze to death." How can the sun freeze you? The writer is just being playful, which makes the song even more fun to sing.

As it spread, people began singing it on long journeys, especially when America was still growing. Some of the lyrics were even changed over time. During the Gold Rush, pioneers heading west to California made it one of their favorite traveling songs. Imagine tired travelers sitting around a crackling campfire. Singing helped them stay hopeful, and "Oh! Susanna" was the perfect, cheerful tune. The song even mentions a banjo, a stringed instrument that people often played while singing together.

When we hear this song today, we remember the exciting but sometimes difficult journeys people took as America grew and how music helped them share their stories with others.



"I come from **Alabama**
with a banjo on my knee,
I'm going to **Louisiana**,
my true love for to see
It rained all night the day I left,
the weather it was dry



Watch the episode!

The sun so **hot**
I **froze** to death,



Susanna, don't you cry.

Oh, Susanna,

don't you cry for me

cos' I come from Alabama

With my **banjo**

on my knee."



Daisy Bell (Bicycle Built for Two)

Written by: Harry Dacre

Years ago, a man named Harry traveled across the wide Atlantic Ocean from England to America. He brought his bicycle for the visit, and when he landed in New York City, he was very surprised to have to pay a tax for his bike!

Later, when Harry shared this story, one of his friends joked that he was lucky he didn't have a bicycle built for two. Then, he would have paid double! Those words stuck with Harry and inspired him to write the song "Daisy Bell (Bicycle Built for Two)." During that time, bikes were an exciting new way for people to travel and enjoy their free time. Tandem bikes, which had seats for two riders, were a popular way for couples to spend time together and enjoy new adventures.

The song's lyrics tell the story of a man asking a woman named Daisy to marry him. Though he doesn't have the money to buy her fancy things like a carriage, he asks her to join him on a romantic bicycle ride. It's a fun and sweet song that many people still love today.

When we sing it, we remember how new inventions gave people more time for simple adventures, like riding together through town or the countryside. Songs like this show how music doesn't just tell serious stories but can also celebrate joy, friendship, and the little moments that make life special.





Watch the episode!



"Daisy, Daisy,
give me your answer, do
I'm half crazy
all for the love of you
It won't be a stylish marriage
I can't afford a carriage
But you'll look sweet
upon the seat
Of a bicycle built for two."

My Bonnie

Written by: Author unknown

When someone you love lives far away, you probably miss them very much. That's exactly the feeling in the famous Scottish folk song, "My Bonnie."

In the Scottish language, "my bonnie" means "my beloved." So when the song talks about "Bonnie," it's talking about someone dearly loved. The words tell of this loved one being far away, across the ocean, and how much the singer longs to see them again.

Some people believe the song is about a real prince from Scotland long ago. After losing an important battle, he had to leave his home and sail across the sea to France. In this version, the song becomes a hopeful call from his people, wishing for their prince to return.



For many others—especially people in America—the song took on a different meaning. As the country grew, many people traveled far from home to find new opportunities. These long journeys often meant leaving loved ones behind, and songs like this helped them feel a little less alone.

No matter who the song is about, it reminds us how people have always missed those they love when they are far away. The gentle rise and fall of the music feels like ocean waves, carrying our thoughts across the sea and helping us keep our loved ones close in our hearts.



**"My Bonnie lies over the ocean,
My Bonnie lies over the sea,
My Bonnie lies over the ocean,
Oh bring back
my Bonnie
to me.**



**Bring back,
bring back,
Oh bring back my Bonnie to me,
to me:**

**Bring back,
bring back,
Oh bring back
my Bonnie
to me."**



Watch the episode!

Appendix: Sheet Music

The Star-Spangled Banner	60
You're a Grand Old Flag	61
America the Beautiful	62
America: My Country 'Tis of Thee	63
The Army Goes Rolling Along (Army)	64
Marines' Hymn (Marines)	65
Anchors Aweigh (Navy)	66
Semper Paratus (Coast Guard)	67
Home on the Range	68
Whoopee Ti Yi Yo (Git Along, Little Dogies)	69
Red River Valley	70
I've Been Working on the Railroad	71
Low Bridge, Everybody Down (Fifteen Miles on the Erie Canal)	72
Drill, Ye Tarriers, Drill	73
Oh! Susanna	74
Daisy Bell (Bicycle Built for Two)	75
My Bonnie	76



The Star-Spangled Banner

Written by: Francis Scott Key

Music by: John Stafford Smith

C G Am E7 Am D7

O say can you see, by the dawn's ear - ly

5 G C G7 C

light, What so proud - ly we hailed at the twi - light's last

9 G Am E7 Am D7

gleam - ing Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the per - il - ous

13 G C G7 C

fight, O'er the ram - parts we watched, were so gal - lant - ly

17 C G7

stream - ing? And the rock - et's red glare, the bombs burst - ing in

21 C G7 Am D7

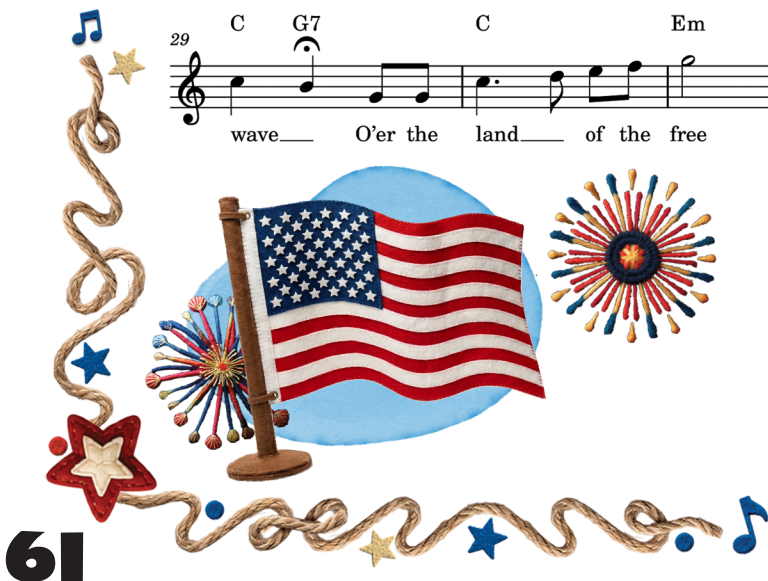
air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still

25 G C F A7 Dm

there; O say does that star - span - gled ban - ner yet

29 C G7 C Em Am C G7 C

wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?



Listen to the song!

You're a Grand Old Flag

Written and composed by: George M. Cohan

F

You're a grand old flag, you're a high-fly - ing flag, and for - ev - er in

7 C7 F

peace may you wave._____ You're the em - blem of the land I

13 G7 C F

love, the home of the free and the brave._____ Ev - 'ry heart beats

19 D7 Gm

true 'neath the red, white and blue, where there's nev - er a boast or brag;_____

25 C F C7 Gm

_____ But should auld ac - quain - tance be for - got, keep your eye on the

31 C F

grand old flag._____



Listen to the song!



America the Beautiful

Written by: Katharine Lee Bates

Music by: Samuel A. Ward

8 Bb F F7 Bb

O beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain, For

6 F G7 C7 F F7

pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties a - bove the frui - ted plain! A -

10 Bb F F7 Bb Bb7

-mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed His grace on thee, and

14 Eb Bb Eb F7 Bb

crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea!



Listen to the song!

America: My Country 'Tis of Thee

Written by: Francis Samuel Smith

Chords: F Dm Gm/Bb C Dm C/E F Dm Gm/Bb

My coun - try, 'tis of thee, sweet land of

4 F/C A7/C# Dm Gm/Bb F/C C7 F

li - ber - ty, of thee I sing:

7 F C7/F F C7

land where my fa - thers died, land of the

10 F/C C F Bb F C7/G F/A

pil - grims' pride, from ev - 'ry moun - tain - side,

13 Bb F/C C7 F

let free - dom ring!



Listen to the song!



The Army Goes Rolling Along

Official song of the United States Army

C

First to fight for the right, and to build the na - tion's

5 G7 C

might, and the Ar - my goes roll - ing a - long!

9

Proud of all we have done, fight - ing 'til the bat - tle's

13 C#dim7 G7 C

won, and the Ar - my goes roll - ing a - long!

17 C C/E F

Then it's hi! hi! hey! The Ar - my's on its

21 C Am D7 G7

way. Count off the ca - dence loud and strong;

25 C E7 F

for where - 'er we go, you will al - ways

29 C C#dim7 G7 C

know that the Ar - my goes roll - ing a - long!



Listen to the song!

Marines' Hymn

Official song of the United States Marines

Sheet music for the Marines' Hymn, featuring lyrics and guitar chords (C, G7/D, F, C/E).

From the halls of Mon - te - zu - ma to the shores of

Trip - o - li; we fight our coun - try's bat -

- tles in the air, on land, and sea. First to fight for

right and free - dom and to keep our hon - or clean;

we are proud to claim the ti - tle of U - ni - ted

States Ma - rine!



Listen to the song!



Anchors Aweigh

Official song of the United States Navy

C G/B Am C G7

An - chors a - weigh, my boys, an - chors a -

7 C C7 F C/E D#dim7 G7/B C

- weigh. _____ Fare - well to col - lege joys, we

13 D7 G7 G F/A G7/B C G/B

sail at break of day - ay - ay - ay. Through our last

19 Am C G7 C C7

night on shore, drink to the foam, _____

25 F C/E Am G#dim7 Am C/G G7

un - til we meet once more: here's wish - ing you a hap - py voy - age

31 C

home! _____



Listen to the song!

Semper Paratus

Official song of the United States Coast Guard

1 F

We're al - ways rea - dy for the call, _____ we

5 Bb F/A Bb F

place our trust in Thee. _____ Through

9 C7 F/C C7 F A7 Dm D7/A

surf and storm and howl - ing gale, high

13 C/E G7 C C7

shall our pur - pose be. _____

17 F

"Sem - per Pa - ra - tus" is our guide, _____ our

21 Bb F/A Bb F

fame, our glo - ry too. _____ To

25 C7 F/C C7 F A7 Dm Bbm

fight to save or fight and die, aye!

29 F/C C7 F

Coast Guard, we are for you! _____



Listen to the song!



Home on the Range

Written by: Brewster M. Higley VI

Music by: Daniel E. Kelley

C C/E F

Oh, give me a home where the buf - fa - lo

5 Fm6 C/E Am D7

roam, where the deer and the an - te - lope play;

9 G7 C C/E F

— where sel - dom is heard a dis - cour - ag - ing

13 Fm6 C G7 C

word, and the skies are not cloud - y all day.

17 G7 G7/B C

— Home, home on the range,

21 Am D7 G

— where the deer and the an - te - lope play;

25 G7 C C/E F

— Where sel - dom is heard a dis - cour - ag - ing

29 Fm6 C G7 C

word and the skies are not cloud - y all day.



Listen to the song!

Whoopie Ti Yi Yo (Git Along, Little Dogies)

Written by: Author Unknown

C/E F G C

As I walked out one morn - in' for plea - sure, I

6 C/E F G C

spied a cow - punch - er a rid - in' a - lone; his

10 C/E F G C

hat was throwed back, and his spurs were a - jing - lin' as

14 C/E F G C

he ap - proached me a - sing - in' this song. Whoop-ee

18 G7 C C/G

ti yi yo, git a - long, lit - tle do - gies, it's

22 G7 C

your mis - for - tune and none of my own; whoop-ee

26 C/E F G C

ti yi yo, git a - long, lit - tle do - gies, you

30 C/E F G7

1. C 2. C

know that Wy - o - ming will be your new home. Whoop-ee home.



Listen to the song!



Red River Valley

Written by: Author Unknown

G

From this val - ley they say you are go - ing, we will

4 D/F# G G7/B

miss your bright eyes and sweet smile, for they say you are tak - ing the

7 C Edim7 D D7/F# G

sun - shine that bright - ens our path - way a while. Come and

10

sit by my side if you love me; do not has - ten to bid me a -

13 D G G7/B C Edim7

-dieu, but re - mem - ber the Red Riv - er Val - ley, And the

16 D D7/F# G

girl who has loved you so true.



Listen to the song!

I've Been Working on the Railroad

Written by: Author Unknown

5

F F7 Bb Bbm F

I've been work-ing on the rail - road, all the live-long day.

5

F7/A G7 C7

I've been work-ing on the rail - road, just to pass the time a - way.

9

Edim C7 F F7 Bb Gm6 A7

Can't you hear the whis-tle blow - ing? Rise up so ear - ly in the morn'.

13

Bb Bdim F Dm F/C C7 F

Can't you hear the cap - tain shout - ing? "Din - ah, blow your horn!"

17

Bb G7 C7 F

Din-ah, won't you blow, Din-ah, won't you blow, Din-ah, won't you blow your horn?—

21

Bb G7 C7 F

Din-ah, won't you blow, Din-ah, won't you blow, Din-ah, won't you blow your horn?



Listen to the song!



Low Bridge, Everybody Down (Fifteen Miles on the Erie Canal)

Written by: Thomas Allen

Dm F/C Gm/Bb A7 Dm

I've got a mule and her name is Sal. Fif - teen miles on the

4 Bb A7 Dm Dm F/C Gm/Bb A7

E - rie Can - al. She's a good old work - er and a good old pal.

7 Dm Bb A7 Dm C7/E F

Fif - teen miles on the E - rie Can - al. We haul'd some bar - ges

10 C Dm A7

in our day, filled with lum - ber, coal, and hay. And

13 Dm F/C Gm/Bb A7 Dm

we know ev - 'ry inch of the way, from Al - ban - y to

16 Bb A7 Dm C7/E F C7

Buf - fa - lo. Low bridge, ev - 'ry - bo - dy down.

19 F C7 F

Low bridge, yeah we're com - ing to a town. And you'll

21 Bb F Bb

al - ways know your neigh - bor, and you'll al - ways know your pal, if ya

23 F Gm/Bb Dm A7 Dm

ev - er nav - i - gat - ed on the E - rie Can - al



Listen to the song!

Drill, Ye Tarriers, Drill

Written by: Thomas Casey

Music by: Charles Connelly

Am E7

Ear - ly in the morn - in' at sev - en o - 'clock there are twen - ty tar - ri - ers a -

4 Am

-drill - in' at the rock. And the boss comes a - round and he says, "Keep still,

7 E7 Am E7

come down hea - vy on your cast i - ron drill and drill, ye tar - ri - ers,

10 Am G Am

drill." Drill, ye tar - ri - ers, drill Well, you

13 C

work all day for the sug - ar in your tay Down be - hind the

16 E7/B Am E7 Am

rail - way And drill, ye tar - ri - ers, drill.



Listen to the song!



Oh! Susanna

Written by: Stephen Foster

C D7/A G

I — come from Al - a - ba - ma with a ban - jo on my knee, I'm —

6 C F C/G G7 C

go - ing to Lou - i - si - a - na, my — true love for to see. It —

10 D7/A G

rained all night the day I left, the wea - ther it was dry, the —

14 C F C/G G7 C

sun so hot I froze to death; Sus - an - na, don't you cry.

18 F C G7

Oh, Sus - an - na, don't you cry for me, 'cause I

22 C F C/G G7 C

come from Al - a - ba - ma with my ban - jo on my knee.



Listen to the song!

Daisy Bell (Bicycle Built for Two)

Written by: Harry Dacre

7

G C

Dai - sy, Dai - sy, give me your an - swer,

7

G D7 G Em

do. I'm half cra - zy,

13

A7 D D7

all for the love of you. It won't be a styl - ish

19

G Em C G D7

mar - riage, I can't af - ford a car - riage, but

25

G D7 G D7 G D7

you'll look sweet up - on the seat of a bi - cy - cle built for

31

G

two.



Listen to the song!



My Bonnie

Written by: Author Unknown

Sheet music for the song "My Bonnie" in G major, 2/4 time. The music is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the staff, and the chords are indicated above the staff.

Chords: G, C, G, A7, D7, G, C, G, C, D7, G, G/B, C, A7, D, D7, G, G/B, C, A7, D, D7, G.

Lyrics:

My Bon - nie lies o - ver the o - cean, _____

My Bon - nie lies o - ver the sea, _____

My Bon - nie lies o - ver the o - cean, _____

Oh bring back my Bon - nie to me. _____

Bring back, bring

back, oh bring back my Bon - nie to me, to

me. Bring back, bring

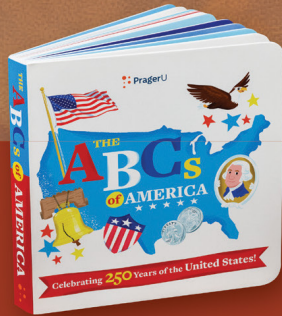
back, oh bring back my Bon - nie to me. _____



Listen to the song!

READY FOR MORE?

Celebrate America's 250th Birthday with All the Patriotic Content PragerU Has to Offer — For Kids, Teens, and Adults!



THE ABCs OF AMERICA BOARD BOOK

Introduce your child to American ideals through this thoughtfully designed educational board book.



OTTO'S TALES BOOKS & VIDEOS

Sweet stories that teach kids about American monuments, holidays, and community helpers.



LEO & LAYLA'S HISTORY ADVENTURES

Meet historical figures that shaped the world in this time-traveling cartoon for elementary kids.



CELEBRATE AMERICA: RACE TO THE WHITE HOUSE BOARD GAME

Celebrate 250 years of America with PragerU's all-new trivia board game—an exciting way for the whole family to discover American history!



Scan here to experience more fun, interactive, and educational content

Based on the fun-filled *America's Favorite Music Show* by PragerU Kids, comes a book that is sure to entertain and educate with songs from America's rich musical history!

From early frontier ballads to military anthems and playful folk songs, the *America's Favorite Music Show Songbook* brings to life the unique history behind our nation's most beloved and timeless melodies.

Go beyond the sing-along to teach little ones the shared stories, symbols, and enduring values that continue to inspire all Americans—250 years and counting.

