



The Mini Page

Betty Debnam, Founding Editor and Editor at Large

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Patriotic Music

Meet Woody Guthrie

Independence Day is coming up, so it's time to brush up on your patriotic music!

Do you know the song "This Land Is Your Land"? Singer and songwriter Woody Guthrie's lyrics celebrate the wonder and variety of the United States.

This favorite song celebrates its 75th birthday this year. The Mini Page learns more about its famous composer and activist, Woody Guthrie.

Early life

Woody Guthrie was born in Oklahoma on July 14, 1912. His father was a cowboy and local politician. His mother originally came from Kansas.

When Woody was only 8 years old, oil was discovered near his hometown of Okemah. The town became an oil "boom town," with thousands of new people arriving to work and provide services for the workers.

But almost as quickly, the oil dried up, and most of the people left.



An Okemah oil well gushes in 1922.



photo courtesy Library of Congress

Woody Guthrie plays his guitar in 1943. The songwriter became a crusader, or supporter, for people who were "outsiders." He wrote songs and spoke out against dishonest politicians and businessmen.

California

As an adult, Woody went west to escape the Dust Bowl in the Midwest. He worked and sang to support himself. In California, he sang on the radio and became popular with other people who had moved away from the Dust Bowl states.

Songs with a message

Woody Guthrie's songs carried messages about fairness and justice. Titles such as "I Ain't Got No Home" and "Talking Dust Bowl Blues" spoke not only to victims of the Dust Bowl and political corruption, but to other folk music singers and songwriters.

In 1940, Woody headed for New York City, where he recorded his first album of original songs, "Dust Bowl Ballads." He joined other folk artists and became well-known, even having his own radio show.

Moving around

His wandering style continued when he moved to Portland, Oregon, then to Pampa, Texas, with his family. He had married in 1933, but his constant moving around was difficult for his wife and three children. The couple divorced, and by 1942, Woody was back in New York City.

During World War II, Woody served in the Merchant Marines and the U.S. Army. He continued to write songs to entertain and encourage the troops.

He remarried in 1945 and had four more children.



Woody and Children

A child's wisdom

Woody Guthrie wrote a number of songs for children about topics he thought were important to them, such as family, friendship and fun.

Unexplained illness

In his late 30s, Woody began to act strangely. He had a disease that sometimes made him moody or violent. His mother had also suffered from the disease.

He left New York again, leaving his family behind, and went back to California. He married a third time and continued writing songs and a novel.

Finally, Woody returned to New York, where doctors discovered that Huntington's disease was causing his odd behavior. He died in 1967 in a hospital in New York. He was just 55 years old.

Creative works

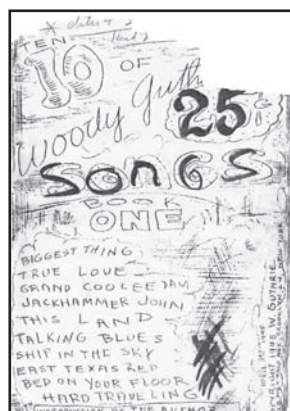
Woody Guthrie wrote lyrics for almost 3,000 songs. He published two novels and wrote many poems, plays, newspaper articles and letters.

“Watch the kids. Do like they do. Act like they act. Yell like they yell. Dance the ways you see them dance. Sing like they sing. Work and rest the way the kids do.

“You’ll be healthier. You’ll feel wealthier. You’ll talk wiser. You’ll go higher, do better, and live longer here amongst us if you’ll just only jump in here and swim around in these songs and do like the kids do.

“I don’t want the kids to be grown up. I want to see the grown folks be kids.”

— Woody Guthrie



A handwritten collection of Woody Guthrie's songs.

This Land Is Your Land

This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York island;
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and me.

As I was walking that ribbon of highway,
I saw above me that endless skyway:
I saw below me that golden valley:
This land was made for you and me.

I've roamed and rambled and I followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts;
And all around me a voice was sounding:
This land was made for you and me.

When the sun came shining, and I was strolling,
And the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling,
As the fog was lifting, a voice was chanting:
This land was made for you and me.

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND
Words and Music by Woody Guthrie
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Ready Resources



The Mini Page provides ideas for websites, books or other resources that will help you learn more about this week's topics.

On the Web:

- woodyguthrie.org/biography/biography1.htm
- youtu.be/XaI5IRuS2aE
- youtu.be/DUDtFdnn9oQ

At the library:

- “Woody Guthrie: Poet of the People” by Bonnie Christensen
- “This Land Is Your Land” by Woody Guthrie



Basset Brown's

Try
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Find

Woody Guthrie

C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	W	R	E	T	I	R	W
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I	D	T	G	U	I	T	A	R	Y	O	Z	L	T	M
L	N	B	O	U	U	L	G	C	B	D	N	M	I	O
Q	A	M	A	I	T	F	R	S	I	K	O	G	M	H
G	L	U	Y	T	R	H	W	E	I	R	M	O	S	A
A	J	S	V	D	E	T	R	J	B	N	E	O	W	L
L	C	I	Y	A	D	S	A	I	V	N	G	M	S	K
F	E	C	N	E	D	N	E	P	E	D	N	I	A	O

Words that remind us of patriotic songs are hidden in the block above. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find: AMERICA, BATES, BERLIN, CHILDREN, COHAN, DAY, FLAG, GUITAR, GUTHRIE, INDEPENDENCE, LAND, MUSIC, OIL, OKLAHOMA, PATRIOTIC, SING, SMITH, SONGS, WOODY, WRITER.



Mini Spy

Mini Spy is playing patriotic music in her marching band. See if you can find:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bird | <input type="checkbox"/> peapod | <input type="checkbox"/> heart | <input type="checkbox"/> two letter T's |
| <input type="checkbox"/> number 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> whale | <input type="checkbox"/> lips | <input type="checkbox"/> number 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> letter A | <input type="checkbox"/> key | <input type="checkbox"/> kite | <input type="checkbox"/> word MINI |
| <input type="checkbox"/> squirrel | <input type="checkbox"/> owl | <input type="checkbox"/> carrot | <input type="checkbox"/> cheese wedge |



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TM



Rookie Cookie's Recipe Huevos Rancheros

You'll need:

- 1 (14-ounce) can diced fire-roasted tomatoes, undrained
- 1/2 cup prepared salsa
- 4 large eggs
- 1/2 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 2 whole-wheat English muffins, halved and lightly toasted

What to do:

1. Combine tomatoes and salsa in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Bring to a simmer.
2. Crack eggs, one at a time, and gently drop onto the simmering tomato mixture.
3. Simmer for 3 to 5 minutes until eggs are almost cooked through, spooning tomato mixture over the eggs to cook the tops.
4. Sprinkle cheese over eggs and simmer for 1 minute or until cheese melts.
5. Spoon tomato mixture and eggs onto English muffins. Serves 4.

You will need an adult's help with this recipe.

Adapted from "The Robin Takes 5 Cookbook for Busy Families" with permission from Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com).

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Meet Rocknoceros

photo by Nicole Wolf Photography



Boogie, Coach and Williebob

Rocknoceros is a trio of musicians and songwriters. Their newest album, "Plymouth Rockers," focuses on songs about 14 states. It is the first CD in a project to write songs about all 50 states.

The Rocknoceros musicians are David "Coach" Cotton; Patrick Williams, known as Williebob; and Marc Capponi, known as Boogie Woogie Bennie. They all grew up in northern Virginia. Coach and Boogie have been best friends since they were 5 years old, and they met Williebob in high school. They have been playing music together ever since.

Boogie plays the drums with his feet while playing keyboards with his hands and singing. Williebob plays guitar, banjo, mandolin, harmonica and kazoo. Coach is a singer.

Before becoming full-time musicians, Coach taught middle school, and Williebob and Boogie taught music.

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Gus
Goodsport's
Supersport



Height: 6-1

Age: 22

Hometown:

Coquitlam,
British Columbia,
Canada

Wesley Berg

The sport of lacrosse has been around for centuries, but for many years it was played mostly along the East Coast and in parts of Canada. Now, however, lacrosse is everywhere.

Wesley Berg learned to play lacrosse at a young age in far western Canada. He chose to play in college for the University of Denver Pioneers, whose head coach, Bill Tierney, had previously won six national titles in 21 seasons at Princeton. Together, Wesley and Bill showed how far the sport has come.

On Memorial Day, Wesley scored five goals against the Maryland Terrapins to give his Pioneers a 10-5 victory and the school's first-ever NCAA championship in lacrosse. It was also the first men's lacrosse title won by any institution located west of the Appalachian Mountains. Wesley was named the 2015 NCAA Lacrosse Tournament's Most Outstanding Player for his performance, which included 15 goals and three assists.



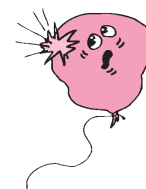
Mighty
Funny's

Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?



Bob: Why did the balloon burst?
Barry: Because it saw a lollipop!



Betsy: What do balloons like to drink?
Barbara: Soda pop!



Bill: What is the balloon's favorite music?
Bailey: Pop songs!

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Do you know these patriotic songs? Listen to these and more here: bit.ly/1HbTc7s

"You're a Grand Old Flag"

George M. Cohan
(1878-1942)

George M. Cohan was one of the leading figures in American theater in the early 1900s. He was a song-and-dance man. He also wrote the words and songs for many plays and musicals.

In 1906 he wrote a musical called "George Washington Jr." One of the songs in it was "You're a Grand Old Flag."

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.
Ev'ry 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.



George M. Cohan

Sing Out!

"America the Beautiful"

Katharine Lee Bates
(1859-1929)

Katharine Lee Bates, a poet, writer and educator, lived in Wellesley, Massachusetts, for most of her life. She spent the summer of 1893 in Colorado.

One day she went to the top of Pikes Peak. When she saw the view, she jotted down some notes.

She later wrote a poem from the words. It was first published in 1895. It was eventually put to a melody written by Samuel A. Ward. Many people wanted it to be our official national anthem.



Katharine Lee Bates

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!

"God Bless America"

Irving Berlin
(1888-1989)

Irving Berlin wrote some of America's most beloved songs, including "God Bless America." He wrote it in 1918 and put it aside.

In 1938, just before World War II began, he wanted to write a "peace" song. He made some changes, and it was first performed by singer Kate Smith on a radio broadcast.

God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light
from above.
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam.
God bless America, my home sweet
home.



Irving Berlin performs for sailors aboard the U.S.S. Arkansas in 1944, during World War II. Berlin was born in Russia but moved with his family to the United States when he was just 5 years old.

"America"

Samuel Francis Smith
(1808-1895)

The words were written by Samuel Francis Smith, a Baptist minister, in 1832. The tune is the same as the British national anthem, "God Save the Queen."

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers
died,
Land of the pilgrims'
pride,
From every mountainside
Let freedom ring!



Samuel Francis Smith

What's your favorite patriotic song? With your family or friends, make a songbook to share on the Fourth of July!

Next week, The Mini Page explores summer visits to museums.

The Mini Page Staff

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