

**Topic:**

Using Music to Promote Patriotism

**Time:**

45-minute session

**Grade:**

1-3

**Core:**

1: 6010-0502  
2: 6020-0203  
3: 6030-0401

**Objectives:**

1. Students will learn about the Constitution through music.
2. Students will gain an awareness about their heritage and the land in which they live.

**Procedure:**

1. Tell students that Woody Guthrie was a folk singer who made up hundreds of songs about the country he loved. Then with the students, read the words of “This Land is Your Land” (Handout 1) and discuss some of the things Guthrie sings about in the song: New York Island, redwood forest, Gulf Stream waters, and so forth.
2. As students listen to the song, have them pat the steady beat on their knees. Invite them to join in on the refrain when they can.
3. Let students try singing the whole song. Have them keep the beat in their own way. For example: tap toes, clap hands, snap fingers.
4. When students know the song well, have small groups take turns singing the verses. Have the class join in on the refrain.
5. Add instruments to a performance of the song.
6. Introduce the students to the song, “America the Beautiful” (Handout 2). Before asking the students to sing the song, discuss the words and share the background materials with the class.
7. Handout 3 deals with the song “Yankee Doodle”. Sing the song to the children and ask them to listen to the words. What name was mentioned in the second verse? (Captain Washington.) Who was Captain Washington? (George Washington, who became the first President of the United States.) Play the song and have the children make the sound of the soldiers’ marching feet by patting their lap with alternating hands in time to the beat. Encourage them to sing the refrain when they can.

**Additional Resources:****Author:**

Avery Glenn



## THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

Words and Music by Woody Guthrie

**REFRAIN**

This land is your land, — This land is my land —  
 From Cal - i - for - nia — to the New York is - land; —  
 From the red-wood for - est — to the Gulf Stream wa - ters; —  
 This land was made for you and me. —

**VERSE**

1. As I was walk - ing — that rib - bon of high - way, —  
 I saw a - bove me — that end - less sky - way. —  
 I saw be - low me — that gold - en val - ley, —  
 This land was made for you and me. —

2. 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." *Refrain*
3. When the sun comes shining and I was strolling  
 And the wheatfields waving and the dust clouds rolling,  
 As the fog was lifting a voice was chanting,  
 "This land was made for you and me." *Refrain*

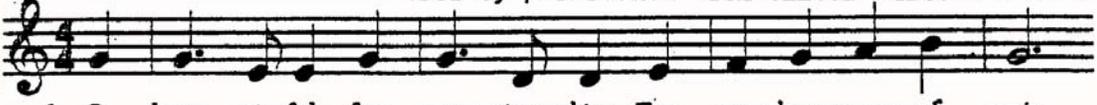
Woody (Woodrow Wilson) Guthrie was born in Okemah, Oklahoma, in 1912. During the 1930's, he traveled throughout the United States, singing his own songs about the beauty of America and accompanying himself on the guitar, harmonica, fiddle, and other instruments. "This Land is Your Land," probably the best known of all of Guthrie's songs, is a tribute to the land he loved so much. Guthrie became known as a national poet-folk singer, and in 1966, a year before his death, he was given the Department of the Interior's Conservation Service Award in recognition of the work he had done to make our people aware of their heritage and the land.

## AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL

On a beautiful day in 1893, Katherine Lee Bates stood on the top of Colorado's Pikes Peak and looked for miles in every direction. She seemed to be seeing all of America — mountains, valleys, wide prairies. It was after this experience that she wrote the poem, "America, the Beautiful." Samuel Ward set the poem to music.

**America, the Beautiful**  
Words by Katharine Lee Bates    Music by Samuel A. Ward

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



For pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties A - bove the fruit - ed plain!



A - mer - i - cal A - mer - i - cal God shed His grace on thee



And crown thy good with broth - er - hood, From sea to shin - ing seal

2. O beautiful for Pilgrim feet, Whose stern impassioned stress  
A thoroughfare for freedom beat Across the wilderness!  
America! America! God mend thine ev'ry flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self control, Thy liberty in law!

3. O beautiful for patriot dream That sees, beyond the years,  
Thine alabaster cities gleam, Undimmed by human tears!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood, From sea to shining seal



