TENNESSEE STATE SONGS

Tennessee Heritage at Junior 4-H Camp

Alexis N. Hall, Program Assistant, Clyde Austin 4-H Center
Tennessee State Songs
Tennessee Heritage at Junior 4-H Camp

Skill Level
Beginner

Learner Outcomes
Campers will be able to:
- Recall the significance of Tennessee in popular music
- Describe characteristics of Tennessee culture within a musical and historical context
- Write a new Tennessee state song

Educational Standard(s) Supported
TN Social Studies: 5.64
TN Music: 8.2.3, 9.1.2 (Grade 4), 8.2.2, 9.1.1 (Grade 5), 8.2.2, 9.1.2 (Grades 6-8)
American Camp Association: PD.3, PD.5, and PD.7

Success Indicator
Campers will be successful if they:
- Reflect upon the state songs
- Describe Tennessee based on the songs
- Draft a new state song

Time Needed
45 Minutes

Materials List
PowerPoint, Student Sheets, and Pencils

Introduction to Content
Campers will learn about music, history and culture of Tennessee by responding to the following state songs: Rocky Top, My Homeland Tennessee, Tennessee Waltz and A Tennessee Bicentennial Rap: 1796-1996.

Introduction to Methodology
Campers will listen to several Tennessee state songs, and they will write about how the songs describe Tennessee and the feelings they evoke. They will brainstorm ideas for a new state song and work together to write one.

Sources
http://popmusic.mtsu.edu/homeland/homelandlessonkit.pdf
https://www.tn.gov/main/article/state-songs
http://emojipedia.org/people/

Author
Alexis N. Hall, Program Assistant, Clyde Austin 4-H Center
Terms and Concepts Introduction

Tennessee has nine state songs that share the history and culture of Tennessee through music. This lesson focuses on four of them and encourages campers to brainstorm about important aspects of Tennessee heritage.

Setting the Stage and Opening Questions

Play the video on slide 1 of the PowerPoint: https://liveutk-my.sharepoint.com/p/personal/jricha15_utk_edu/EUsz_TGs6ypMjYb23kNQzskB9I1C0QFlQoVF_CjyZtidoA?e=aXZSwa

Go to slide 2 of the PowerPoint and read the learning objectives to students.

Go to slide 3 of the PowerPoint.

Tell campers: “We just watched a video from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, that featured people from all over the state of Tennessee singing, whistling or humming along to Rocky Top. Where have you heard the song Rocky Top before?”

Answers will vary.

Tell campers: “Rocky Top is one of Tennessee’s nine state songs. Today we will listen to a few of them to learn about Tennessee culture and history. Our leaders will now pass out lyrics to the songs and a pencil for you to write notes on them.”

Pass out packets and pencils.

Experience

Tell campers, “We are now going to listen and sing along to three of our state songs. While we are listening, answer the questions located at the bottom of the lyrics.”

Play Rocky Top on Slide 3.

Play My Homeland, Tennessee on Slide 4.

Play Tennessee Waltz on Slide 5.

While the songs are playing, sing along and encourage campers to do the same.
Life Skill(s)

4th Grade, Health
Demonstrate characteristics of good character.
Recognize a feeling as it happens to oneself; be aware of one’s mood and one’s thoughts about that mood by stating this to others.

5th Grade Heart
Improve communication skills and develop a sense of belonging.
When reading, consider ideas, thoughts, information or messages that have been written.

6th Grade Head, Managing
Wisely use resources to achieve a purpose.
Identify the parts, steps and necessary sequence or order to achieve a goal.

6th Grade Heart, Relating
Establish connections with others that are wholesome and meaningful.
Use appropriate social skills to interact in group settings.

6th Grade Hands, Working
Use skill, effort or ability to accomplish a goal.
Use basic reading, writing, arithmetic and mathematical skills.

Share

Tell campers, “Now that we have listened to three of our state songs, take a few minutes to finish answering the questions on your lyric pages.”

Walk around the room and make sure that the campers are answering the questions. This portion of the lesson should take five minutes.

Process

Tell campers, “This is the last of the state songs we will listen to today. It was written by a poet from Signal Mountain, Tennessee to celebrate the 200 years that Tennessee has been a state. It was written to provide a fun and easy way for people to learn about our state’s history.”


Tell campers, “If you could write a new song about Tennessee, what would you include? Brainstorm ideas of things you could write about. Write five ideas for your new song on your paper.”

Walk around the room and help campers think of ideas. You can suggest things like history facts, information about their hometown, landmarks or trivia about the state. This portion of the lesson should take five minutes.

Generalize

Tell campers, “Now, find three other people near you. Once you have a group of four, share your ideas for a new state song. After you have talked about your ideas, work together to create a new state song.”

Help campers form groups of four. Then, check in with each group and ask about their ideas for a new state song. Encourage them to think creatively about the things they want to share about Tennessee, the style of music they like, and the feelings they want to share with their song.
This portion of the lesson should take ten minutes.

Invite campers to share their new state songs with the entire group.

Apply

When five minutes remain, go to slide 12. Tell campers, “Now, talk in your group about three things: 1) What do you like about your song? 2) What words do you use to describe Tennessee? 3) What emoji would you use to describe the feeling of your song?”

Walk around the room and help campers stay on task by reminding them of the questions.
Tennessee: Social Studies, Grade 5

5.64 Refer to details and examples about the significance of Tennessee in popular music, including Sun Studios, Stax Records, Elvis Presley, B.B. King, and Memphis, Tennessee. (C, TN)

Tennessee: Music, Grade 4

8.2.3 Demonstrate the relationship of music to literature, mathematics, science, and/or social studies.
9.1.2 Discuss characteristics of selected cultures within a musical and/or historical context using teacher-given parameters.

Tennessee: Music, Grade 5

8.2.2 Investigate the relationship of music to literature, mathematics, science (e.g., acoustical properties of instrumental music), and/or social studies in teacher-given classroom activities.
9.1.1 Discuss characteristics of selected cultures within a musical and/or historical context using teacher-given parameters.

Tennessee: Music, Grades 6-8

8.2.2 Describe the correlation between music and another academic discipline.
9.1.3 Describe the characteristics of a selected music genre, time period, or culture.

American Camping Association: Program Development

PD.3 Program Progression: Camp must allow for campers to experience progression, challenge, and success.
PD.5 Social Development: Camp programs should provide specific activities that are designed to help campers develop socially.
PD.7 Environmental Activities: Camp must provide program activities that help develop comfort, appreciation, awareness, and responsibility toward the natural environment.

Clyde Austin 4-H Center

Campers will learn to cooperate with and be tolerant of others by:
- Participating as a member of the camp family

Campers will learn new skills and enhance present talents and interests through:
- Encouragement to try new activities

Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development. University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating. UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.
Rocky Top

First Verse
Wish that I was on ol' Rocky Top,
down in the Tennessee hills;
Ain't no smoggy smoke on Rocky Top;
Ain't no telephone bills;
Once I had a girl on Rocky Top;
Half bear, other half cat;
Wild as a mink, but sweet as soda pop,
I still dream about that;

Chorus
Rocky Top, you'll always be home sweet home to me;
Good ol' Rocky Top;
Rocky Top, Tennessee;
Rocky Top, Tennessee

Second Verse
Once two strangers climbed ol' Rocky Top,
lookin' for a moonshine still;
Strangers ain't come down from Rocky Top;
Reckon they never will;
Corn won't grow at all on Rocky Top;
Dirt's too rocky by far;
That's why all the folks on Rocky Top get their corn from a jar;

Chorus
Rocky Top, you'll always be home sweet home to me;
Good ol' Rocky Top;
Rocky Top, Tennessee;
Rocky Top, Tennessee

Third Verse
I've had years of cramped-up city life
Trapped like a duck in a pen;
All I know is it's a pity life
Can't be simple again

Chorus
Rocky Top, you'll always be home sweet home to me;
Good ol' Rocky Top;
Rocky Top, Tennessee;
Rocky Top, Tennessee

What do you like about this song? Write your answer in this box.
My Homeland, Tennessee
Adopted in 1925.
Lyrics by Nell Grayson Taylor, music by Roy Lamont Smith.

First Verse
O Tennessee, that gave us birth,
To thee our hearts bow down
For thee our love and loyalty
Shall weave a fadeless crown
Thy purple hills our cradle was;
Thy fields our mother breast
Beneath thy sunny bended skies,
Our childhood days were blessed

Second Verse
'Twas long ago our fathers came,
A free and noble band,
Across the mountain's frowning heights
To seek a promised land
And here before their raptured eyes;
In beauteous majesty:
Outspread the smiling valleys
Of the winding Tennessee

Third Verse
Could we forget our heritage
Of heroes strong and brave?
Could we do aught but cherish it,
Unsullied to the grave?
Ah no! the State where Jackson sleeps,
Shall ever peerless be
We glory in thy majesty;
Our homeland, Tennessee

Chorus
O Tennessee: Fair Tennessee:
Our love for thee can never die:
Dear homeland, Tennessee

What are some words from this song that describe Tennessee?
Write your answer in this box.
Tennessee Waltz
Adopted in 1965.
Written by Redd Stewart, composed by Pee Wee King.

I was dancing with my darlin' to the Tennessee Waltz
When an old friend I happened to see
Introduced him to my loved one and while they were waltzing
My friend stole my sweetheart from me

I remember the night and the Tennessee Waltz
Now I know just how much I have lost
Yes I lost my little darlin' the night they were playing
The beautiful Tennessee Waltz

What emotion is the singer feeling?
Circle which face best represents their feeling.

😊 😞 😟 😞 😞 😞 😞

Write the name of that feeling here.

How would you describe that feeling? Write your answer here.
A Tennessee Bicentennial Rap:
1796-1996
Adopted in 1996
Written by Joan Hill Hanks.

TENNE-, TENNE-, TENNES-SEE!
Oh, how proud we are of thee!
Volunteer State since 1812 —
Glad our fathers picked here to dwell!

Presidents, Presidents - proud are we!
Jackson, Polk, and Johnson - three!
Crockett, Forrest, and John Sevier;
Alvin York and Hull lived here!

Baker, Gores, and Kefauver,
Served our country with honor!
U.T., Memphis and Vandy U.,
Tennessee Tech and Sewanee, too!

Appalachian Mountains, mountains high —
Reaching up in the smoky sky!
Tennessee River, flowing through —
We will cross near the Choo Choo!

Dollywood and Walking Horse Show!
Opryland and the Opry Show!
Whisky, whisky - sipping smooth —
Moon, Moon Pies and Goo Goo Goos!

Reelfoot Lake and cotton fields,
Natchez Trace and Civil War fields!
Mocking birds and raccoons grow,
And tulip poplars and iris show!

Bessie Smith and Memphis blues —
W.C. Handy and Elvis, too!
Eastman, Oak Ridge, and TVA —
Nissan, Saturn, and Country Music pay!

Chickasaw, Sequoyah, and Cherokee —
Cumberland Plateau and Mississippi!
BIRTHDAY WISHES ON 200 YEARS —
GIVE TENNESSEE A BIG, BIG CHEER!

Imagine you are writing a new Tennessee song.
Write 5 ideas for your new song in this box.