

Theme: Trains

YouTube Playlist: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFTw3dKr7K0tsJyavODi4mHgEJ_0T5tfi

Greeting Song & Warm Up: Train is A'comin'

*Because this video was made for kids, it can't be saved to a playlist, so please visit this url to hear the song:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_eyBXiy_Og8

First, sing this simple melody with the words as written. Then, substitute words to make it a greeting song like this:

Hello to John, oh yea'. Hello to Susie, oh yea. Hello to Sarah, Hello to Lisa, Hello to Mark, oh yea.

Next, change the words to give movement directives:

Raise up your right arm, oh yes. Raise up your right arm, oh yes.

Raise up your right arm, raise up your right arm, raise up your right arm oh yes.

Try other movements: raise your right/left leg, circle your right/left wrist, nod your head, shrug your shoulders, etc.

Singing:

Sentimental Journey

Discussion

This song was Doris Day's first #1 hit. It resonated with the soldiers returning from the end of WWII.

What song reminds you of home?

I've Been Workin' on the Railroad

Discussion

By 1830, there were only 23 miles of railroad in the United States. By 1850 it had grown to 9,021 miles, a fraction of the 200,000 miles it was to eventually grow to at its peak.

At the time railroad unions were formed, conditions for employees were horrible. Wages averaged \$1.00 per day and 70 percent of all train crews could expect injury within five years of service. And workers were injured and 1,657 were killed. Insurance was not available to railroad workers because of the hazards of the job.

After the Civil War, during the 1870's and 1880's, many of the railroads in the South were rebuilt and expanded using cheap convict labor largely composed of young black men. These laborers often worked in chains, were underfed, poorly housed and medically neglected. Many convict laborers only survived an average of 3 years, and almost 1 in 10 perished within the first four months.

On the west coast, prejudice against Chinese immigrants made railroad companies reluctant to hire Chinese workers because they didn't think they would be hearty enough for the work. But when very few white laborers responded to ads for railroad construction work, a crew of 21 Chinese were included in the initial team starting construction on the Central Pacific line in January 1864. Soon numbers grew, and about 2 years later 90% of the work force on that section of the railway were Chinese. All in all 15,000-20,000 Chinese workers are estimated to have contributed to the construction of the transcontinental railroad. However, the workers continued to suffer mistreatment such as receiving 30-50% lower wages than white workers and having to pay for their own food. They also were prone to suffer physical abuse and being assigned more dangerous jobs.

Another group of immigrants who had a large part in the construction of the railway system were the Irish. The Union Pacific employed mostly Irish immigrants who had fought in the Confederate War. They endured harsh conditions and often faced discrimination from those who viewed them as dirty drunks. However at times they were able to lay 10 miles of track a day, a record that had never been seen before.

****What's the hardest job you ever had to do? What made it difficult? What's one of your proudest accomplishments. What would you want people to remember about the work you've done?**

She'll Be Comin' Round the Mountain

Discussion

This song comes from the African-American spiritual "When the Chariot Comes". It is thought that the song is a coded song used by the underground railroad. The "she" in the song stands for a train coming up the tracks. The song uses a call & response style that makes it easy to sing. It was often used by foreman who sang while working to lift the spirits of the workers and encourage them as they worked.

When have you used music to make a job easier? Did you listen to music at work?

On the Atchison, Topeka and the Sante Fe

Discussion

This 1946 Academy Award winning song was featured in the movie "The Harvey Girls" sung by Judy Garland. Judy was in 34 different movies. What were some of your favorites? How many can you name?

Wabash Cannonball

Discussion

There are two different stories about the origin of this song.

- 1) Hobos invented a legend about a mythical "death coach" train called the Wabash Cannonball that carried the soul of the hobo to its final resting place. They said that the train whistle had been heard at every station.
- 2) Paul Bunyan's brother, Cal S. Bunyan, built a railroad called the [Ireland, Jerusalem, Australian & Southern Michigan](#) Line. It was so fast that it ran off to outer space where it is still traveling.

Work together to make up your own fable about the Wabash Cannonball.

Moving

Locomotion – watch the video and follow the moves, or try making up your own!

Watching (See YouTube playlist)

Glenn Miller – “Chattanooga Choo Choo” from the movie *Sun Valley Serenade*

Jimmy Henley – “Orange Blossom Special” on Hee-Haw

Duke Ellington – “Take the A Train”

James Brown “Night Train”

Goodbye

So Long, It’s Been Good to Know You

TRAIN IS A'COMIN'

Train is a-coming, oh yes!

Train is a-comin', oh yes!

Train is a-comin', train is a'comin',

Train is a-comin', oh yes!

Better get your ticket, oh yes!

Better get your ticket, oh yes!

Better get your ticket, better get your ticket

Better get your ticket, oh yes!

There's room for many more, oh yes!

There's room for many more, oh yes!

There's room for many more, room for many more,

There's room for many more, oh yes!

Train is a'leavin', oh yes!

Train is a'leavin', oh yes!

Train is a'leavin', train is a'leavin'

Train is a'leavin', oh yes!

SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

Gonna take a sentimental journey
Gonna set my heart at ease,
Gonna make a sentimental journey
To renew old memories.

Got my bag, I got my reservation.
Spend each dime I could afford.
Like a child in wild anticipation,
Long to hear that all-aboard!

Seven! That's the time we leave at seven.
I'll be waiting up for heaven.
Counting every mile
of railroad track to take me back

Never knew my heart
could be so "yearny".
Why did I decide to roam?
Gonna make a sentimental journey.
Sentimental journey home.

I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THE RAILROAD

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
Don'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

Someone's in the kitchen with Dinah
Someone's in the kitchen I know
Someone's in the kitchen with Dinah
Strumming on the old banjo

Fee fie fiddle iiee o Fee fie fiddle iiee o Fee fie
fiddle iiee o Strumming on the old banjo

SHE'LL BE COMIN' ROUND THE MOUNTAIN

She'll be coming 'round the mountain when she comes
She'll be coming 'round the mountain when she comes
She'll be coming 'round the mountain,
she'll be coming 'round the mountain
She'll be coming 'round the mountain when she comes

She'll be driving six white horses when she comes
She'll be driving six white horses when she comes
She'll be driving six white horses,
she'll be driving six white horses
She'll be driving six white horses when she comes

We'll all go out to meet her when she comes
We'll all go out to meet her when she comes
We'll all go out to meet her, we'll all go out to meet her
We'll all go out to meet her when she comes.

We'll kill the old red rooster when she comes
We'll kill the old red rooster when she comes
We'll kill the old red rooster, we'll kill the old red rooster,
We'll kill the old red rooster when she comes

We'll all have chicken 'n dumplings when she comes
We'll all have chicken 'n dumplings when she comes
We'll all have chicken 'n dumplings,
we'll all have chicken 'n dumplings,
we'll all have chicken 'n dumplings when she come

ON THE ATCHISON, TOPEKA and the SANTA FE

What a lovely trip I'm feeling so fresh and alive
And I'm so glad to arrive It's all so grand

It's easy to see you don't need a palace
To feel like Alice in Wonderland
Back in Ohio where I come from
I've done a lot of dreamin' and I've travelled some

But I never thought I'd see the day
When I ever took a ride on the Santa Fe
(Wanna take a ride on the Santa Fe)
I would lean across my window sill

And hear the whistle echoin' across the hill
Then I'd watch the lights till they fade away
On the Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe
What a thrill (what a great big wonderful thrill)

With the wheels a-singin' "westward ho"
Right from the day I heard them start
'Cross the Kansas plains from New Mexico
I guess I've got a little gypsy in my heart

When I'm old and grey and settled down
If I ever get a chance to sneak away from town
Then I'll spend my busman's holiday
On the Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe

(turn page)

**All aboard! (we came across the country lickety-split)
(Rollin' ninety miles an hour)
I can't believe I'm here at last
Woo-oo-ooo!**

**(When you go travellin', it's best for you
To take the Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe!)
I can't believe that anything could go so fast
Then you pull that throttle, whistle blows**

**A-huffin' and a-puffin' and away she goes
All aboard for California, hey!**

On the Atchison (on the Atchison)

On the Atchison, Topeka (on the Atchison, Topeka)

On the Atchison, Topeka (on the Atchison, Topeka)

On the Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe!

WABASH CANNONBALL

**From the great Atlantic Ocean
to the wide Pacific's shore,
From the queen of flowing rivers
to the Southland's verdant door;
She's tall and dark and handsome
and known quite well by all,
She's the reg'lar combination
called The Wabash Cannonball**

**Oh, listen to the jingle,
the rumble and the roar,
As she glides along the woodland
and down by the shore,
She's tall and dark and handsome
and known quite well by all;
She's the reg'lar combination
called The Wabash Cannonball**

So Long, It's Been Good to Know Yuh

I've sung this song, but I'll sing it again
Of the place that I lived on the wild windy plains
In the month called April, county called Gray
And here's what all of the people there say

So long, it's been good to know yuh
So long, it's been good to know yuh
So long, it's been good to know yuh
This dusty old dust is a-gettin' my home
And I've got to be driftin' along

A dust storm hit, an' it hit like thunder
It dusted us over, an' it covered us under
Blocked out the traffic an' blocked out the sun
Straight for home all the people did run - Singin'

So long, it's been good to know yuh
So long, it's been good to know yuh
So long, it's been good to know yuh
This dusty old dust is a-gettin' my home
I've got to be driftin' along

We talked of the end of the world, and then
We'd sing a song an' then sing it again
We'd sit for an hour an' not say a word
And then these words would be heard

So long, it's been good to know yuh
So long, it's been good to know yuh

**So long, it's been good to know yuh
This dusty old dust is a-gettin' my home
And I've got to be driftin' along**

**Sweethearts sat in the dark and sparked
They hugged and kissed in that dusty old dark
They sighed and cried, hugged and kissed
Instead of marriage, they talked like this
Honey**

**So long, it's been good to know yuh
So long, it's been good to know yuh
So long, it's been good to know yuh
This dusty old dust is a-gettin' our home
And I've got to be driftin' along**

**Now, the telephone rang, an' it jumped off the wall
That was the preacher, a-makin' his call
He said, "Kind friend, this may be the end
An' you got your last chance at salvation of sin!"**

**The churches was jammed, and the churches was
packed**

**An' that dusty old dust storm blowed so black
Preacher could not read a word of his text
An' he folded his specs, an' he took up collection
Said**

**So long, it's been good to know yuh
So long, it's been good to know yuh
So long, it's been good to know yuh
This dusty old dust is a-gettin' my home
And I got to be driftin' along**