



ARKANSAS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Rockefeller Quartet Presents *Music of the People*

Culture is a word we use to describe how we live from day to day. It includes the **art** we make, **music** we listen to, the **clothing** we wear and the **food** we eat along with many other things people do. Different groups of people live differently based upon where they live, how much money they have to spend and **traditions** followed by families. Folk culture comes from **traditions** that are handed down from generation to generation (from grandparents to parents to children and to their children and to their children).

American Folk Culture from Appalachia – When people started moving west in America, many settled in the Appalachian Mountain area. They brought with them the customs and traditions of the countries they came from and formed the culture of Appalachia.



Appalachia is famous for its **artistic quilts**. A quilt is a set of square pieces of fabric sewn together. How many squares can you count in this one? ____



Appalachian families eat fresh **food** raised in their own gardens, such as beans, potatoes and corn.

Appalachian **clothing** is made from plain cotton cloth. It reflects the rural lifestyle of the region



The banjo is a popular **Bluegrass** musical instrument.



Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear.
And Grace, my fears relieved.
How precious did that Grace appear
The hour I first believed.

This hymn was written by a former slave trader, John Newton. He said, "I hope it will always be a subject of humiliating reflection to me that I was once an active instrument in a business at which my heart now shudders." He poured his remorse and deep sadness into this hymn which has become a part of the fabric of American folk music.



Orange Blossom Special

Look a-yonder comin'
Comin' down that railroad track
Hey, look a-yonder comin'
Comin' down that railroad track
It's the Orange Blossom Special
Bringin' my baby back.

Well, I'm going down to Florida
And get some sand in my shoes
Or maybe Californy
And get some sand in my shoes
I'll ride that Orange Blossom Special
And lose these New York blues

"Say man, when you going back to Florida?"
"When am I goin' back to Florida? I don't know, don't
reckon I ever will."
"Ain't you worried about getting your nourishment in
New York?"
"Well, I don't care if I do-die-do-die-do-die-do-die."

Hey talk about a-ramblin'
She's the fastest train on the line
Talk about a-travellin'
She's the fastest train on the line
It's that Orange Blossom Special
Rollin' down the seaboard line.

The Music of Stephen Foster (1826-1864)

Stephen Collins Foster was born in Pennsylvania . He had three sisters (Charlotte Susanna, Ann Eliza, and Henrietta) and four brothers (James, Dunning McNair, Morrison and William). In 1850, he married Jane Denny McDowell.

In 1846, Foster moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, and became a bookkeeper with his brother's steamship company. While in Cincinnati, Foster composed his first successful songs, including "Oh! Susanna," which became an anthem of the California Gold Rush—in 1848–1849.

Foster wrote over 200 songs. Other famous compositions are, *De Camptown Races*, *Old Folks at Home*, *My Old Kentucky Home*, *Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair* and *Beautiful Dreamer*.

When Stephen Foster died in New York City, he had very little money. This was because he did not receive **royalties** for his music from year to year like American composers receive today. His songs have been handed down over the years much like folk music.



Oh, Susannah

I come from Alabama
With a banjo on my knee
I'm going to Louisiana,
My true love for to see.

Oh, Susannah,
Oh don't you cry for me
For I come from Alabama
With a banjo on my knee.

A buckwheat cake was in her mouth
A tear was in her eye. Says I,
"I'm coming from the south,
Susannah, don't you cry."

It rained all night the day I left
The weather it was dry
The sun so hot, I froze to death
Susannah, don't you cry.

I had a dream the other night
When everything was still
I dreamed I saw Susannah dear
A-coming down the hill.

Oh, Susannah,
Oh don't you cry for me
For I come from Alabama
With a banjo on my knee.

Native American Folk Culture

Native Americans were the first people living in America, long before America was discovered by Columbus.



Art: Indians drew designs on pottery and clothing. Each tribe had their own special designs and ways for making pottery.

Food: Most tribes moved from place to place. They hunted buffalo and deer for food. Other tribes settled in one place so they could have gardens and grow food, such as corn and squash.



Native Americans made their **clothing** from buffalo and deer skins. They often sewed colorful beads onto their clothing. Feathers were also used for headdresses.



Music: Native Americans make flutes by hand out of wood. These flutes are very similar to ‘recorders’ used in other parts of the world.

What traditions do you follow?

What **traditions** do you have in your family that have been handed down to you? Do you have any family **traditions** that are similar to those of Native Americans or people living in Appalachia? Use the space below to write down what you find out from your family at home about art, music, food and clothing that are being handed down to you from your parents and grandparents.

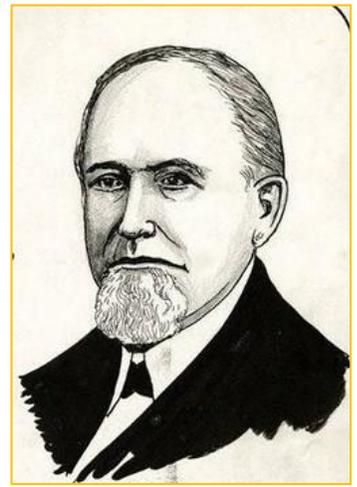
Arts/Crafts: _____

Music/Songs: _____

Food: _____

Clothing: _____

Arkansas Music: "*The Arkansas Traveler*," written in the 1850's, was the state song of Arkansas from 1949 to 1963. It has been the state historical song since 1987. The composer was Colonel Sanford C. 'Sandy' Faulkner (1806–1874) who served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. At one point, he commanded the Arsenal in Little Rock. Faulkner County was named in his honor. The music was featured in several 1930's Looney Tunes cartoons and is the basis for the children's song *Be My Little Baby Bumble Bee*. The current official **lyrics** were written by a committee in 1947 in preparation for its naming as the state song. (from Wikipedia)



Arkansas Traveler

On a lonely road quite long ago,
A trav'ler trod with fiddle and a bow;
While rambling thru the country rich and grand,
He quickly sensed the magic and the beauty
of the land.

Chorus

For the wonder state we'll sing a song,
And lift our voices loud and long.
For the wonder state we'll shout hurrah!
And praise the opportunities we find in
Arkansas.

Many years have passed, the trav'lers gay,
Repeat the tune along the highway;
And every voice that sings the glad refrain
Re-echoes from the mountains to the fields
of growing grain.

Chorus

For the wonder state we'll sing a song,
And lift our voices loud and long.
For the wonder state we'll shout hurrah!
And praise the opportunities we find in
Arkansas.

Vocabulary

Appalachia - a region in the eastern United States in the area of the southern Appalachian Mountains, including eastern Tennessee, West Virginia and eastern Kentucky.

Bluegrass music - Bluegrass music is a form of American country music inspired by the music of Appalachia. It has mixed roots in Irish, Scottish, Welsh, and English traditional music.

lyrics - words written to a song.

rhythm - patterns notes used in a piece of music usually set to an underlying beat.

royalties - money paid to a composer when one of her/his songs is printed or performed.

tradition - a cultural practice or custom that is handed down from parents to their children over several generations.

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