

Song: God Bless America (1938)

Songwriter: Irving Berlin

Brief Context: Today, “God Bless America” is often used as a symbol of support for war, sung by soldiers in uniform at baseball games and other events. Irving Berlin gave it to radio star Kate Smith to perform on her radio show on the eve of the first official celebration of Armistice Day—a holiday originally conceived to commemorate world peace and honor veterans of the Great War.

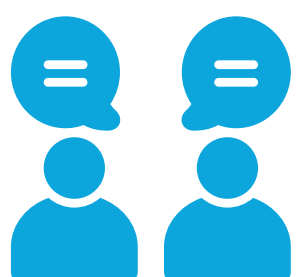
Activity: Singing and Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "God Bless America" video**
- **Lyric Sheet**
- **Visual Prompt**

Suggested Discussion Prompts

- **Would you sing "God Bless America" in school or at baseball games?**
- **What does the song mean to you?**



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God Bless America

**God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above**

**From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home**

**God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above**

**From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home**

**From the mountains to the prairies
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Song: You're a Grand Old Flag (1906)

Songwriter: George M. Cohan

Brief Context: American composer and entertainer George M. Cohan wrote "You're a Grand Old Flag" for his 1906 stage musical George Washington, Jr. Cohan was inspired by a chance meeting he had with a Civil War veteran who fought at Gettysburg. The veteran was holding a carefully folded but ragged flag and said to Cohan, "She's a grand old rag." Cohan liked that line a lot, but changed the word "rag" to "flag."

Activity: Movement (upper body)

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "You're a Grand Old Flag" video**

Suggested Seated Movement Prompts

- **Swing arms as if marching**
- **Push arms out and up to the right then to the left**
- **Pat Lap and Clap**
- **Left Hand to Right Shoulder**
- **Right Hand to Left Shoulder**
- **Right Hand Salute**



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Song: The Star-Spangled Banner

United States National Anthem

Brief Context: "The Star Spangled Banner" is the national anthem of the United States of America and is often sung or played at sporting events, graduations, and patriotic events. The words were written by Francis Scott Key in 1814 who was inspired by the 15 stars and 15 stripes of the Star-Spangled Banner U.S. flag. It was officially recognized as the official anthem of the United States in 1931 under President Herbert Hoover.

Activity: Listening and Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- **Recording of "The Star-Spangled Banner"**
- **Perfect Harmony visual prompt**

Suggested Discussion Prompts

- **What do you do when you hear the National Anthem?**
- **How do you feel when you hear the National Anthem?**



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Song: This Land Is Your Land (1940)

Songwriter: Woody Guthrie

Brief Context: In 1940, folk singer Woody Guthrie wrote "This Land is Your Land" in response to Irving Berlin's patriotic song "God Bless America." Woody grew up poor in Oklahoma during the Great Depression and wanted to write a song that was for every American, not just the upper class. "This Land is Your Land" has been known as America's "other national anthem."

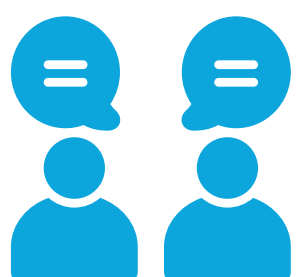
Activity: Singing and Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- "This Land Is Your Land" Perfect Harmony Video
- Lyric Sheet

Suggested Discussion Prompts

- What State are you from?
- Have you traveled to any other States in America?
- Where did you go?



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This Land Is Your Land

**This land is your land and 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 went walking that ribbon of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway
Saw below me that golden valley
This land was made for you and me**

**This land is your land and 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**

**When the sun come shining, then I was strolling
And the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling
The voice was chanting as the fog was lifting
This land was made for you and me**

**This land is your land and 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
This land was made for you and me
This land was made for you and me**



Song: Washington Post March (1889)

Songwriter: John Philip Sousa

Brief Context: In 1889, The Washington Post newspaper requested that Sousa, the leader of the United States Marine Band, compose a march for the newspaper's essay contest awards ceremony. It quickly became quite popular in the United States as the standard musical accompaniment to the two-step, a late 19th-century dance craze.

Activity: Movement (lower body)

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "Washington Post" video**

Suggested Seated Movement Prompts

- **Double foot toe taps**
- **Medium march**
- **Alternate forward toe touches (step forward and back)**
- **Single foot toe taps**
- **Fast march**
- **Slow march**
- **Single foot and alternating heel taps**
- **Fast march**
- **Medium march**



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