



Teachers and Chaperones

Please read this important information about behavior in the Center.

The Woody Guthrie Center preserves the spirit and creativity of Woody Guthrie, and it is like no other museum in Tulsa. Students are encouraged to play with the interactives and listen and rock out to the music. While we hope that students will enjoy their visit, we ask that you remind them of the following rules:

- No running
- No food or drink
- No photos
- No weapons except guitars

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Pre-Visit Activities

Activity 1

Directions: The pictures below are a sampling of the artifacts in the Woody Guthrie Center. Look closely at each one and try to answer the included questions.



The man in the picture is Woody Guthrie.

Have you heard of him?

What do you know about him?

Do you know any songs he has written?

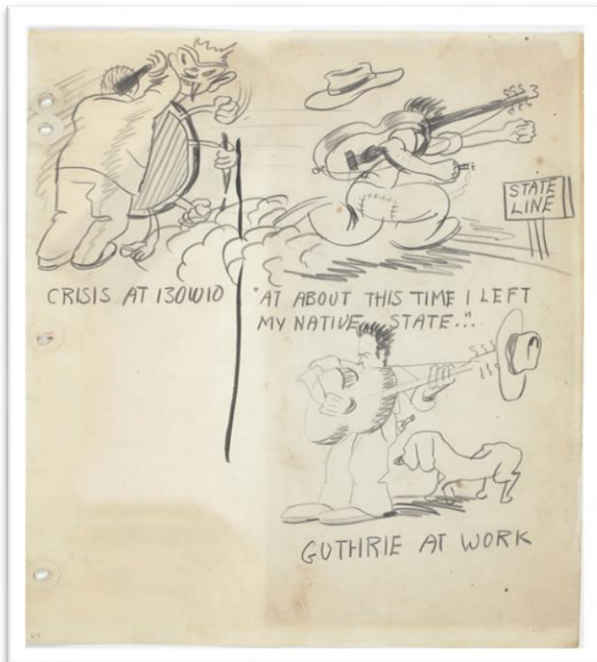
Why refer to a guitar as a machine?

According to this paper, what is folk music?

Why is it important?

Who writes folk music?

There are over fifty million ~~people in America~~ of us who never got a whiff of champagne and never got any closer to the moon over Miami than the foot of a tenement house. Fifty million - that's a lot of Americans. What about ~~them~~ ^{us}? They laugh and sing and fall in love and get mad and work and have babies. Where are the songs about ~~them~~ ^{us}? ~~They sing about them~~ ^{they make up about themselves} You can pour an oak barrel full of nickles into a juke box and not hear one. The only songs about us are the ones we make up ourselves - or the ones that others like us make up. ~~They~~ That's folk music. It doesn't have to come from the hills of Kentucky or the ranges out in Montana. It can come from the lower Eastside or from a rubber town in Ohio, Anywhere where working people live and sing about it.



This picture is a drawing about Woody Guthrie.

What do you think the artist's message is?

What is he trying to say about Guthrie?

Activity 2

Woody Guthrie was among the first songwriters to use his creative talents to protest and bring attention to actions that he perceived to be unjust. His support was for the common man; not the people that already had power.

Directions: Each of the following songs was written by Woody Guthrie to bring attention to a particular issue. Carefully read they lyrics and see if you can guess what the issue is.

My father's own father, he waded that river,
They took all the money he made in his life;
My brothers and sisters come working the fruit trees,
And they rode the truck till they took down and died.

Some of us are illegal, and some are not wanted,
Our work contract's out and we have to move on;
Six hundred miles to that Mexican border,
They chase us like outlaws, like rustlers, like thieves.

We died in your hills, we died in your deserts,
We died in your valleys and died on your plains.
We died 'neath your trees and we died in your bushes,
Both sides of the river, we died just the same.

The sky plane caught fire over Los Gatos Canyon,
A fireball of lightning, and shook all our hills,
Who are all these friends, all scattered like dry leaves?
The radio says, "They are just deportees"

Who is this song about?

Who is this song addressed to?

What is Guthrie's message?

What words or images are most effective?

So Long, Its Been Good To Know Yuh

(Dusty Old Dust)

Words and Music by Woody Guthrie

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:

CHORUS: 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.

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,

What event inspired this song?

How did people respond to this?

When the sun came shining, and I was strolling,
And the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling,
As the fog was lifting a voice was chanting:
This land was made for you and me.

As I went walking I saw a sign there
And on the sign it said "No Trespassing."
But on the other side it didn't say nothing,
That side was made for you and me.

In the shadow of the steeple I saw my people,
By the relief office I seen my people;
As they stood there hungry, I stood there asking
Is this land made for you and me?

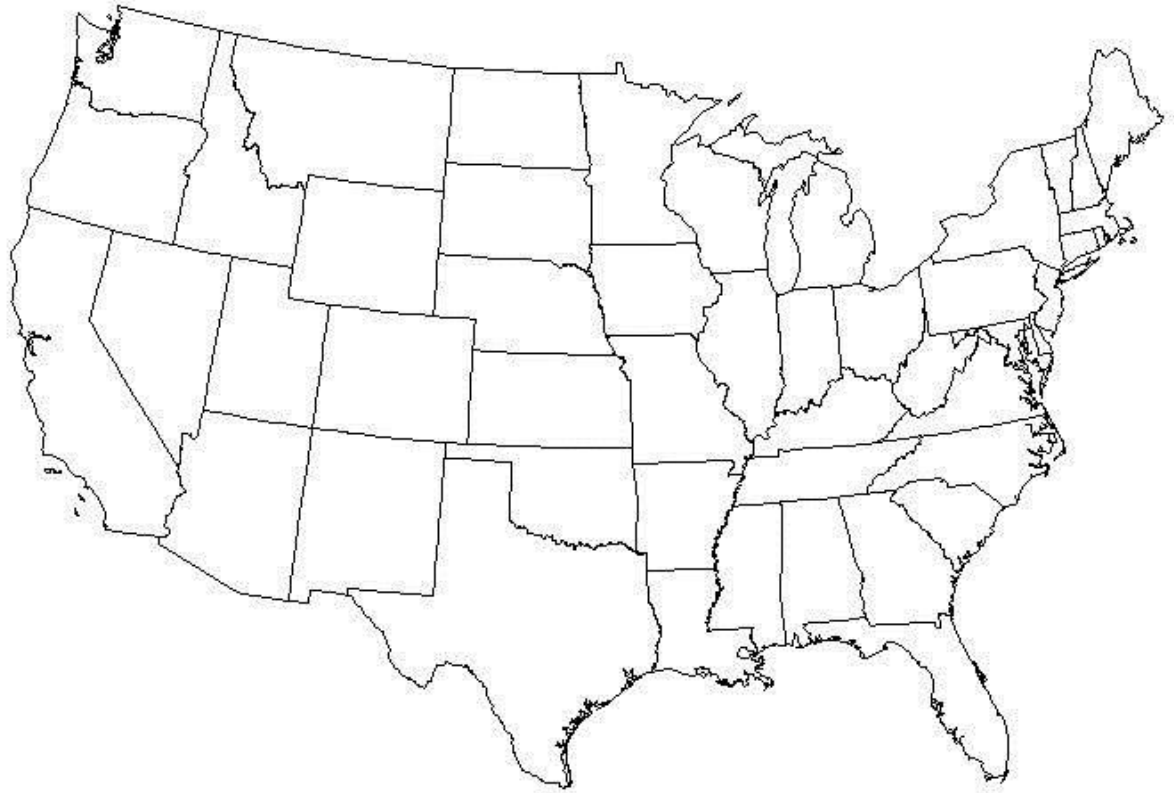
Is this song familiar to you?

Have you heard the last two verses?

What do you think they mean?

Activity 3

Woody Guthrie had a restless spirit and was always on the road. He wanted to see firsthand what the common man was experiencing. These travels took him across the country. On the map below, label the places he visited and Route 66, the popular route travelled by many people who headed west to escape the Dust Bowl.



Places of Woody Guthrie:

1. Okemah, Oklahoma
2. Pampa, Texas
3. Route 66 & major cities along the route
4. Los Angeles, CA
5. New York City, NY
6. Grand Coulee Dam

Post-Visit Activities

Activity 1: Write your own protest song

After leaving the Woody Guthrie Center, students should be familiar with the idea of spreading a message through song. Woody was one of the first musicians to use music in this way. He wrote music on a wide variety of topics, but he is most well-known for his protest music. Think about topics on which you have an opinion and write a song that conveys your message on the topic.

Activity 2

Activity 2: Review your visit. Find out how much your students remember about their trip to the Woody Guthrie Center by asking them to complete the puzzles below.

Y R O L G R O F D N U O B M S
X M W W F O A D A O Y T E R E
O M Z I M S K R L N S R L B L
C I W S X O C L N P C M Z Q E
A R R L I H P A A H D V F D G
I C N T I S N I A H S A E U N
I C H V B E P N S F O F B S A
U P E M T O T H E R U M E T S
N S W O W M C B K Q L X A B O
Q Z O S A S Q N W Q L E I O L
F H Y R H N B E R O E F V W L
B N I L O D N A M O F C B L C
M N O G I V N M L I C P O I K
E L E A D B E L L Y K H Z D O
J Q T Y O G R H G Y K Y D C X

ARCHIVES

BOUND FOR GLORY

CORNCOBTRIO

DUSTBOWL

HOOTENANNY

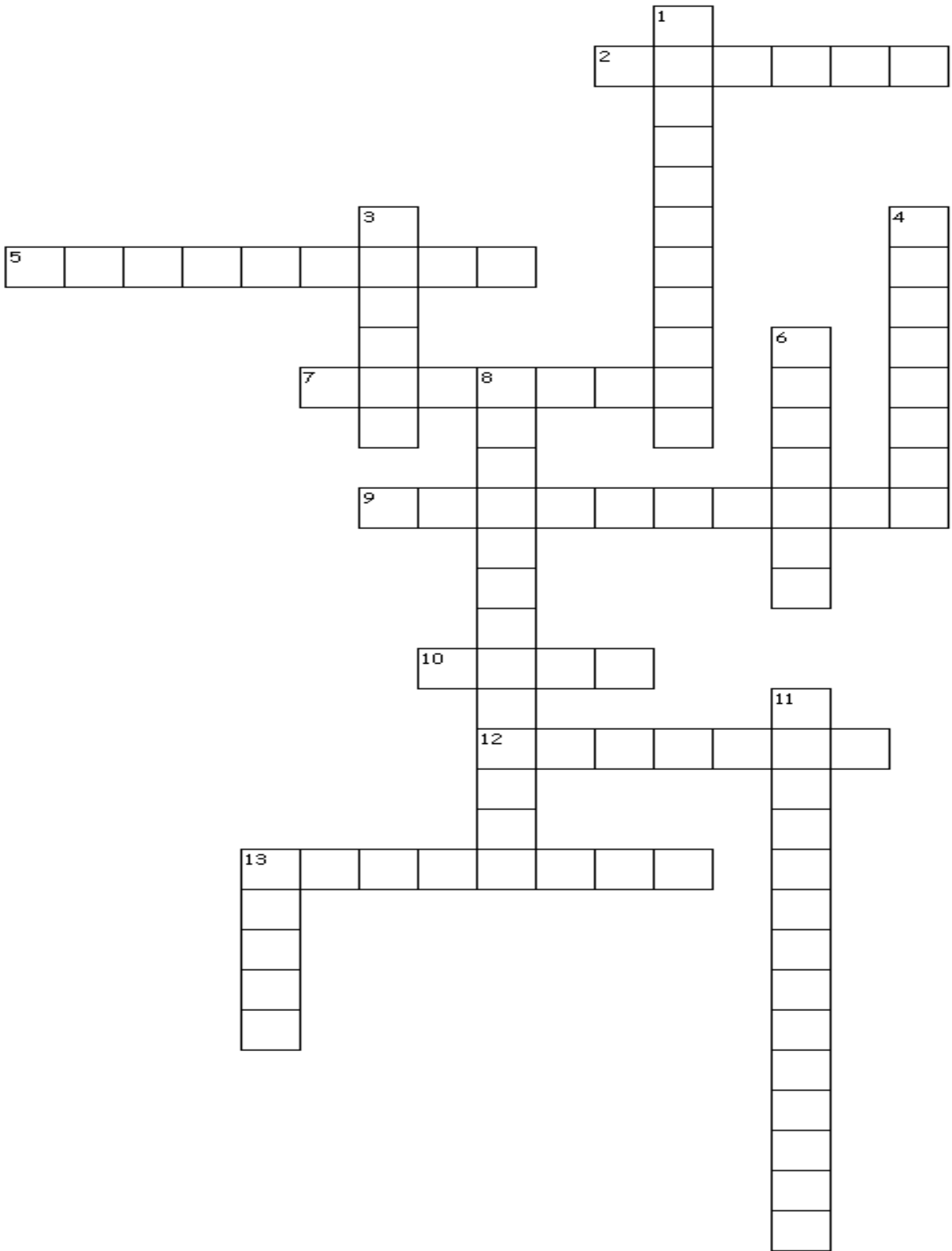
LEADBELLY

LOSANGELES

MANDOLIN

MERCHANT MARINE

OKLAHOMA



Across

2. instrument he is famous for playing
5. magazine that printed a book review
7. nickname for Jack Elliott
9. 100th birthday celebration
10. Guthrie's son who is also a folk singer
12. President Guthrie did oil painting of
13. wrote "Song to Woody"

Down

1. disease that took Guthrie's life
3. town where Guthrie was born
4. major environmental disaster represented in the Center
6. room where his records are kept
8. Guthrie's autobiographical novel
11. group formed with Pete Seeger
13. Tulsa theater that hosted 100th year celebration