



STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1776

Introduction

"1776" focuses on the connections between music and American history. The following activities will focus on one of our founding fathers as well as pieces that have an interesting connection to the Revolutionary War. Let's first test our knowledge about the Revolutionary War. Read and answer the questions below!

Student Activities – Activity #1, Revolutionary War

1. How many colonies fought for independence during the American Revolutionary War?
 - a. nine
 - b. fifteen
 - c. thirteen
 - d. twenty
2. These colonies fought for independence from which country?
 - a. England
 - b. Italy
 - c. Spain
 - d. France



Activity #1, Revolutionary War



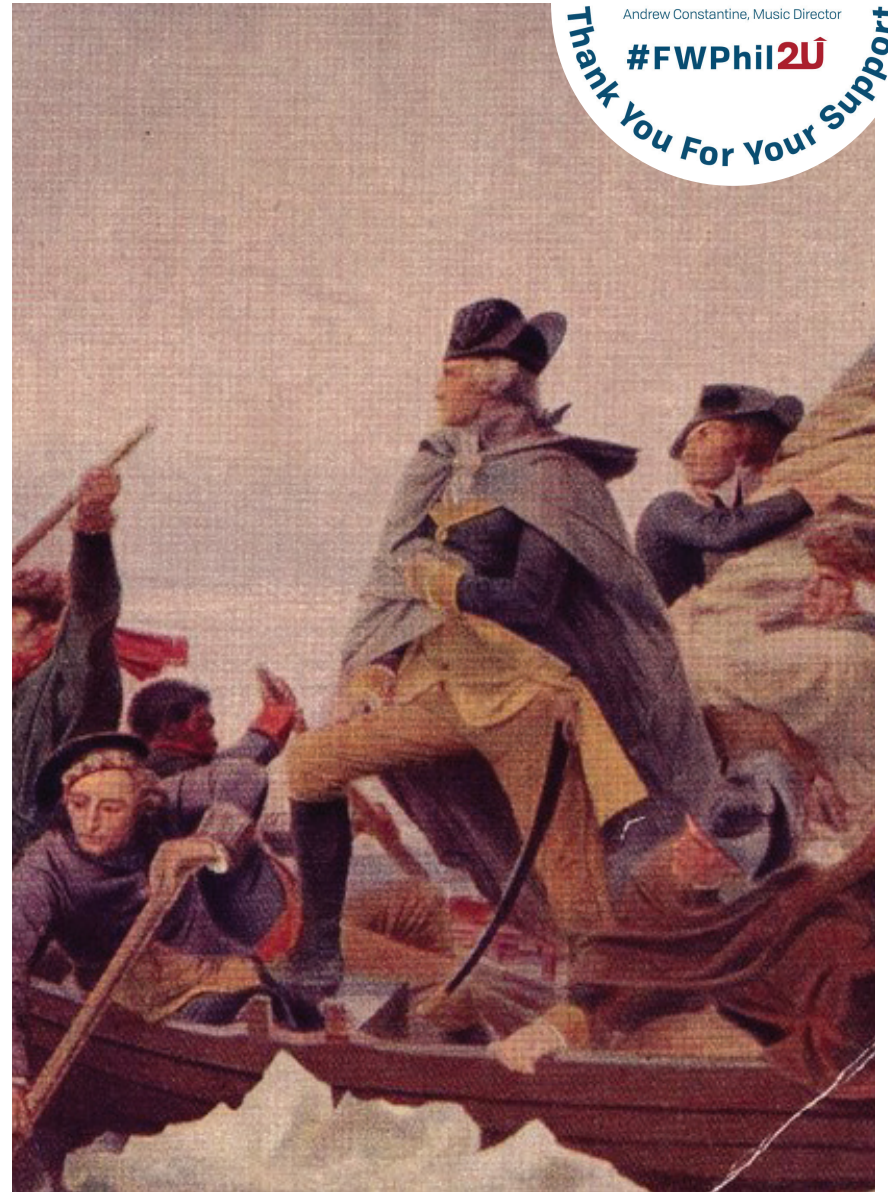
3. When was the American Revolutionary War?
 - a. 1812 – 1815
 - b. 1775 – 1783
 - c. 1754 – 1763
 - d. 1861 – 1865

4. American colonists who fought against the British were known as:
 - a. Patriots
 - b. Loyalists
 - c. Outlaws
 - d. Redcoats

5. American colonists who supported the British Crown were known as:
 - a. Rebels
 - b. Revolutionaries
 - c. American Whigs
 - d. Loyalists

6. Who was George Washington?
 - a. Commander in Chief of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War
 - b. one of our Founding Fathers
 - c. first president of the United States
 - d. all of the above

7. True or False: On July 4th, 1776, the 13 colonies proclaimed their independence from England and signed the Declaration of Independence: _____





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Student Activities – Activity #2, Benjamin Franklin

Benjamin Franklin
(January 17, 1706 – April 17, 1790)

Benjamin Franklin was one of America's founding fathers. He is known for being an inventor, scientist, author, printer, politician, and even a musician! He had numerous inventions such as the Franklin stove, the lightning rod, and bifocals. His most notable contributions include helping draft the Declaration of Independence and negotiating the Treaty of Paris that ended the Revolutionary War.

As he is mainly known for being one of our founding fathers, it may surprise some that Benjamin Franklin was an accomplished amateur musician as well. He played the violin, harp, guitar, and also composed! Listen to Benjamin Franklin's string quartet entitled *March, Minuet, and Capriccio*. It was originally written for three violins and cello.

Please note that Franklin decided to be inventive with the tunings of each instrument. Each performer tuned their four open strings to four different pitches, giving a total of 16 notes among them all. They then could perform this entire multi-movement piece without ever incorporating their fingers and placing them down on the strings. They instead performed using only the bow! Watch and listen using the link below and notice how the string quartet plays the entire piece without putting any fingers down on the strings/fingerboard.

March, Minuet, and Capriccio: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1N_Bu0jKUQ8

Activity #2, Benjamin Franklin

Write a Review:

See the review criteria below as you prepare to write a one page review. Be sure to inform the reader about the performance and convince the reader about what he/she should believe. You may decide to write your review based on only a few of the points below. You may write your review from an American (supportive) or British (mocking) point of view.

- Recall the dynamics and tempi of the piece – try and describe what you heard and how it contributed to the overall impact of the composition
- Consider the different timbres created by performing only on open strings
- Describe the rhythmic pulse. How did that affect the general mood of the piece?
- Why do you think Ben Franklin decided to write a piece of music where the musicians did not have to put their fingers down on the strings? Brainstorm a few ideas as to why this was necessary.
- Does this music seem too easy / too difficult to perform?
- Is this considered “serious” music? Or does it seem more like a musical experiment performing only on open strings?
- What is the general effect of watching a string quartet perform without using their left hand?



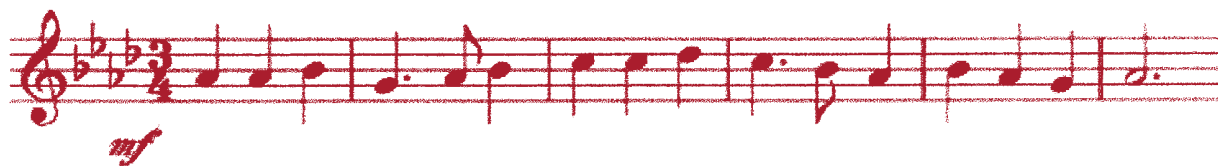


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Student Activities – Activity #3, God Save the Queen / My Country 'Tis of Thee (America)

The American colonists and the British each used music for their own benefit. God Save the Queen is Great Britain's national anthem and was first sung in England as "God Save the King" in the 1700's. During the Revolutionary War, this British melody was used by the American colonists, accompanied with different lyrics, and eventually developed into the patriotic tune we all know and love, *My Country 'Tis of Thee (America)*! *My Country 'Tis of Thee (America)* was actually our de-facto national anthem before the Star Spangled Banner.

Moderately Slow



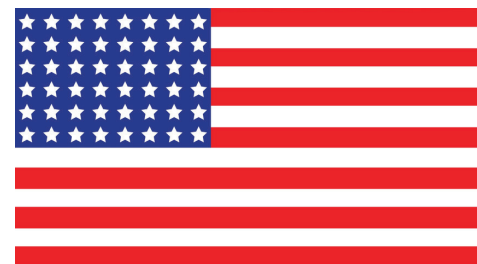
God save our gra-cious Queen! Long live our no-ble Queen! God save the Queen!
My coun-try 'tis of thee sweet land of li-ber-ty of thee I sing.

God Save the Queen

God save our gracious Queen
Long live our noble Queen
God save the Queen
Send her victorious
Happy and glorious
Long to reign over us
God save the Queen

My Country 'tis of Thee (America)

My country, 'tis of Thee
Sweet Land of Liberty
Of thee I sing
Land where my father's died
Land of the pilgrim's pride
From every mountain side
Let Freedom ring



Activity #3, God Save the Queen / My Country 'Tis of Thee (America)



1. Read the melodic line on page 5. If possible, perform the melody by singing or on piano. You should recognize this famous melody as *My Country 'Tis of Thee (America)*.
2. Listen to each example below and compare/contrast.

God Save the Queen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k3vte6R6emU>

My Country 'Tis of Thee (America): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKj7FLg3WVA>

In addition, read the lyrics used by the British and the American colonists. How are they similar / different? What feelings do they convey about their country?

3. Why do you think the American colonists used the melody in Great Britain's national anthem, changed the lyrics, and made it their own?

4. Create: See if you can create a modern verse of *My Country 'Tis of Thee (America)*, adding original lyrics of your own!



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Student Activities – Activity #4, Yankee Doodle

Yankee Doodle

Yankee Doodle went to town
A-Riding on a pony
Stuck a feather in his cap
And called it macaroni

Chorus:

Yankee Doodle keep it up,
Yankee Doodle dandy,
Mind the music and the step,
And with the girls be handy.

Father and I went down to camp,
Along with Captain Gooding,
And there we saw the men and boys
As thick as hasty pudding

Chorus

There was Captain Washington,
Upon a slapping stallion,
Giving orders to his men,
I guess there were a million.

Chorus

Yankee Doodle

Traditional



Activity #4, Yankee Doodle

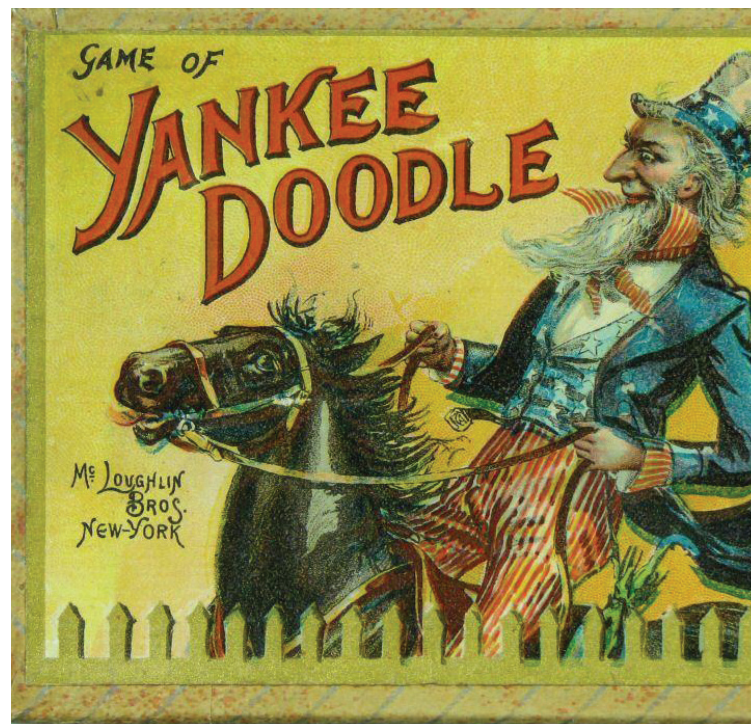
- Read the Yankee Doodle melody on page 7. If possible, perform this melody by singing or performing on an instrument.
- Most of us are familiar with this patriotic tune from the American Revolutionary War. Did you know that Yankee Doodle was originally a tune sung by the British military to mock the American soldiers? Even though this was originally a tune meant for ridicule, the American colonists actually embraced this tune and made it their own!
- Did you ever wonder about the meaning behind these strange lyrics? Look at the following terms/phrases and make an educated guess as to their meaning. Keep in mind that this was a song used to mock the American colonists!



What do you think the following terms/phrases are referring to?

- Yankee _____
- Doodle _____
- Pony _____
- Macaroni _____
- "keep it up" _____
- Dandy _____
- "mind the music and the step" _____
- "and with the girls be handy" _____

*Compare your answers with the answer key on the next page. Were you correct?



Activity #4, Yankee Doodle



Answer Key

- Yankee = a derogatory term referring to the American colonists, who the British felt were poor and ill-mannered
- Doodle = a simpleton, an idiot, foolish, gullible
- Pony = small horse; the British mocked the American colonists by singing that they were poor and could only afford to own a pony instead of the large, beautiful, and elegant horses associated with the British military
- Macaroni = a fashionable man who wears cinched waistcoats and tall white wigs. This particular lyric suggests that by sticking a mere feather in a cap is the American colonist attempt at being sophisticated and fashionable
- “keep it up” = this phrase mockingly tells the American colonists to continue acting like a fool and trying to be sophisticated
- Dandy = self absorbed, overly stylish man
- “mind the music and the step” = this phrase refers to dancing. The British intended to make fun of the Yankees by saying that they were not only simple and unfashionable, but that they couldn’t even dance as well. This phrase mocked the ‘common’ dances of the colonists
- “and with the girls be handy ” = this phrase also refers to dancing in that the Yankees could not perform the dance steps nor hold the girl in the proper manner.

Listening: Compare and Contrast

Many of us recognize the familiar tune of Yankee Doodle. However, many variations of Yankee Doodle have been written. Listen to the two examples below. The first example is a traditional version of Yankee Doodle. The second example is an exciting setting of Yankee Doodle by composer Morton Gould! How are they similar/different? Can you hear all of the variations of this famous melody in the version by Morton Gould?

- Yankee Doodle, Traditional – US Army Chorus: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNRn83Ai2NQ>
- Yankee Doodle, Morton Gould – US Marine Band: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnYd8CulULo>