



# Campfire Songs



Juan just wanted an answer to his question. But Grandfather shared a history of Campfire Songs first.

**Juan was disappointed but he listened respectfully.** 📺 Grandfather explained that campfire songs, in part, came from the American recreational camping movement. Camping as a pastime began around 1900. At the same time, cowboys were camping as part of their job and had been singing songs around nightly campfires for years.

The United States was changing. It was in a deep industrial revolution. Numbers of people were moving from the country into cities for jobs in industry. Roads were being built everywhere. The Ford Company produced the first cars. National Parks, land on which no houses or businesses were permitted, were being established in our western states. Camping became very popular in the entire United States.

Youth summer camps came into being. They were supposed to build unity and a sense of community in the children and teenagers who attended. The camps encouraged youth to participate in sing-alongs to create a sense of togetherness through shared experiences. Singalongs were often held at night.

The songs we enjoy around campfires were taken from songs in the youth camps. These songs came from three sources: gospel singing traditions in black churches, military marching songs, and folk songs or melodies that were easy to sing.

WATCH AND LISTEN to the campfire song, “Oh Susanna”. It was written in 1847, a long time ago, by Stephen Foster. First, listen closely to the words and if you are a reader, read each word. Afterwards, you and your family can share answers to a few challenges.

[Oh Susanna](#) USE FULL SCREEN.

## Challenges After You Watch

1. Talk it over and decide: from which of the three sources did this song come:

- gospel
- marching
- folk songs or melodies that are easy to sing

2. Tell the story in the song’s lyrics in your own words.

Watch and listen to the video a second time.

3. See if your family can be super lookers and find:

- Letters and numbers inside parentheses, like this ( ). These tell what chords to play on the guitar.
- These 3 instruments—guitar, harmonica, banjo

Play the video a third time:

4. Sing along as much as you can.



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## More Campfire Fun

### Other Popular Campfire Songs

See if anyone can sing at least one song & then teach it to all.

- Gospels: Children, Go Where I Send Thee; Deep River; Go Tell It on the Mountain; Jacob's Ladder
- Marches: Drill Ye Tarriers, Grandfather's Clock, John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt, Marching to Pretoria
- Folksongs and Melodies That Are Easy to Sing: Home on the Range; Kookaburra; I Met a Bear, The Bear Went Over the Mountain; This Little Light of Mine

### Funny Campfire

If you can't build a real campfire, you can build this one, sit around it and sing a few camp songs and even eat s'mores beside your campfire!

[http://www.kidsbridgecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/KAH\\_FunnyCampfires.pdf](http://www.kidsbridgecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/KAH_FunnyCampfires.pdf)

### S'mores

(Some More) - Make this yummy treat. It's been a campfire favorite for almost 100 years!

*Adult help may be needed for safety.*

#### Ingredients

For EACH person

- 1 graham cracker broken in half at perforation
- 2 rectangles from plain Hershey milk chocolate bar
- 1 regular size marshmallow
- (1 roasting stick, long enough that you can use it without getting burned – for campfire only)

#### Campfire Directions

1. On a paper plate or piece of aluminum foil place a graham cracker broken in half.
2. On one of the graham cracker halves, place 2 rectangles of chocolate.
3. Fasten 1 marshmallow on a stick. Roast in campfire until marshmallow is golden brown.
4. Carefully remove roasted marshmallow onto the graham cracker half with the chocolate.
5. Place the other graham cracker half on top of the marshmallow and press lightly. Eat!

#### Oven Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.



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2. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper or aluminum foil.
3. Place graham cracker half on cookie sheet, On half place 2 rectangles of chocolate. On top of chocolate place marshmallow.
4. Put cookie sheet in oven with door slightly ajar for 4 minutes or until marshmallow is golden brown.
5. With protective gloves, remove cookie sheet from oven. 6. Place the other graham cracker half on top of the marshmallow and press lightly. Eat while sitting by your make-believe campfire.

## Microwave Directions

1. Place ½ graham cracker on a napkin or microwave safe plate.
2. Put one square chocolate on the cracker.
3. Place 1 marshmallow on top of the chocolate.
4. Microwave on high for 15 seconds. (Do not overcook!)
5. Remove from the microwave, and put the other cracker ½ on top.