

Yankee Doodle

According to tradition, the song "Yankee Doodle" originated during the French and Indian War. American soldiers from the New England area joined with British soldiers to fight at Niagara in New York. In 1750, a British surgeon named Dr. Richard Shuckburgh wrote the song to ridicule the colonial troops, who were outfitted in buckskin and furs. He based it on an old tune. However, the colonial soldiers liked the song and adopted it as their own. There are as many as 190 verses of "Yankee Doodle." It is said that the Americans played "Yankee Doodle" when Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown.

Here are some familiar lyrics:
Yankee Doodle went to town,
Riding on a pony;
Stuck a feather in his hat
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
Yankee Doodle, keep it up,
Yankee Doodle dandy;
Mind the music and the step,
And with the girls be handy.
There was Captain Washington
Upon a strapping stallion,
A-giving orders to his men,
I guess there was a million.

1. The words "Yankee Doodle" were supposed to be insulting to the Americans. Use your research skills to determine why the words were demeaning.

2. What is hasty pudding? Make some for your classmates to taste.

3. Create original verses to Yankee Doodle. Perform them with your classmates in a class sing-a-long.