

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

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by Woodie Guthrie, ill. by Kathy Jakobsen (Little Brown)

Themes: Geography/Social Studies

Grade Level: All Grades

Running Time: 12 minutes

SUMMARY

Everyone's favorite folk song is brought to toe-tapping life in this richly illustrated production. This American classic celebrates diversity and includes a biographical segment about Woody Guthrie.

OBJECTIVES

- Children will learn about the various regions of the United States.
- Children will explore the different ways people work and live throughout our country.
- Children will understand that the most beautiful things about our country are here for all of us to enjoy.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Share the book *THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND* with children. Then ask:

- What kinds of changes did you see as the man in the story walked from one end of the country to the other?
- Which place did you like best? Why?
- What kinds of animals did you see in the cold climates? Warm climates? On the farms?
- Which places in our country have large populations of people living in them? Which have small populations?
- How long do you think it would take a person to travel from the west coast to the east coast?

Talk with children about places in the United States

they may have visited. Ask:

- Why did you go to this place?
- What did you see there? What did you do there?
- Would you want to live in this place? Why? Why not?
- What important things about this place would you want to share with your friends?

Collect postcards, magazine pictures, and photographs of some of the special parks, landmarks, monuments, bridges, etc. that can be found in the U.S. Give children some background on these sites. Then give children an opportunity to draw or create cardboard sculptures of symbols they feel could be used to inform people about the riches of our country.

Encourage children to think about how the song makes them feel. Later, see how many other songs about our country children are familiar with. Have children share these songs with their classmates.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Show children a map of the U. S. Let children take turns locating different regions and states on the map. Share any interesting facts and information about these regions/states with children. Later, let children work in groups to do some basic research on different areas of the country. As children share their information, encourage them to compare and contrast the different regions.

Have children draw pictures of a place in the U.S. that they have heard about or would like to visit. Let children share their drawings with one another. As you discuss children's drawings, emphasize the importance of keeping these environments clean and safe for all. Play a game of "Walk Across America." Have children stand on one side of the room, pretending that they are

on the west coast. Explain to children that they are feeling hot and spending time on the beach. As children move across the room toward the opposite side, explain what how the climate and activities they engage in will be different from region to region. Have children pantomime some of these activities as they make their way to the "east coast" (opposite side of the room!)

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