

## Song of the Revolution

**Directions:** Read the following Revolutionary War song and answer the questions that follow.

### Yankee Doodle

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 slapping stallion  
A-giving orders to his men—  
There must have been a million.

Then I saw a swamping gun  
As large as logs of maple  
Upon a very little cart,  
A load for Father's cattle.

Every time they shot it off  
It took a horn of powder  
And made a noise like father's gun  
Only a nation louder.

There I saw a wooden keg  
With heads made out of leather;  
They knocked upon it with some sticks  
To call the folks together.

Then they'd fife away like fun  
And play on cornstalk fiddles,  
And some had ribbons red as blood  
All bound around their middles.

I can't tell you all I saw—  
They kept up such a smother  
I took my hat off, made a bow,  
And scampered home to mother.

1. Do you think the song is written from the British or American point of view? Who is speaking?
2. What words support your opinion?
3. How do you visualize the campsite?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

4. Since each colony and often each singer changed the lyrics at whim, the melody and words had to be easily remembered.
- a. Is there a definite rhyme scheme?
  - b. What poetry term could be used to replace "chorus"?
  - c. Find examples of alliteration.
5. Look up the meanings of these words. Be certain the meanings fit the context.
- a. hasty pudding
  - b. Yankee
  - c. doodle
  - d. horn
  - e. keg
  - f. fife
  - g. smother
6. Some of the words could be "colonial slang"; substitute words for these phrases.
- a. girls be handy
  - b. slapping stallion
  - c. swamping gun
  - d. nation louder
7. "Yankee Doodle," a story written in verse, was obviously meant to be sung. It might be appropriately labelled a \_\_\_\_\_.