

Piece: Charlie Over the Ocean      Head Researcher: Abbey Monreal

Composer and/or Arranger:      Assistant Researchers:

Culture of Origin: African American Folk Song

Cultural Context:

- Earliest record of this song was in (White American) folklorist Harold Courlander’s book and recordings entitled *Negro Folk Music of Alabama*
- The song was traditionally used by kids as an echo song with a chase game similar to “Duck Duck Goose.”
- Quaver Ed recommends this song as a replacement for “Shortnin’ Bread” because it teaches similar concepts

<p>Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fine to use with context</b></li> <li>• Use at your own discretion</li> <li>• Unfit for the classroom given the current academic information provided</li> </ul>	<p>Recommendation Notes:</p> <p>The piece does not have racist origins and was originally performed by African American children. I do think its origin and history should be taught with the song to educate about different cultures and to avoid appropriation.</p>
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Score:

# Charlie Over the Ocean

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 8/8. It consists of three lines of music. The first line contains three measures: the first is labeled 'Call' and the next two are labeled 'Response'. The lyrics are 'Char - lie o-ver the o - cean, Char - lie o-ver the o - cean, Char - lie o-ver the sea,\_\_\_'. The second line contains four measures: the first is labeled 'Response', the second 'Call', the third 'Response', and the fourth 'Call'. The lyrics are 'Char - lie o-ver the sea,\_\_\_ Char - lie catch a black - bird, Char - lie catch a black - bird, Can't catch'. The third line contains three measures, all labeled 'Response'. The lyrics are 'me.\_\_\_\_ Can't catch me.\_\_\_\_'. The score ends with a double bar line.

Variations:

Charlie over the water,  
 Charlie over the sea.  
 Charlie caught a big fish.  
 Can't catch me.

- Different renditions replace “black bird” with “big Bird” and “blackfish” with “big fish”

Sources:

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