Piece: Cumberland Gap	Head Researcher: Grant Singer
Composer and/or Arranger: Trad.	Assistant Researchers:

Culture of Origin: American, Appalachia

Cultural Context: The Cumberland Gap is a mountain pass located in the Appalachian Mountain through Tennessee, Virginia, and Kentucky. The Cumberland Gap was a strategic point during the Civil War. There were copious amounts of fighting in this region, and it was occupied by both sides two different times. The song was primarily used by confederate soldiers and sympathizers during the war. It was first written in John Lomax's *American Ballads and Folk Songs but* had been previously recorded in 1924 by a fiddle player, Uncle Am Stuart. The song was used to antagonize Black Americans who lived in the region. It has been adapted and performed by many artists including Pete Seeger and David Rawlings. There are two scores below, the initial being the original from *American Ballads and Folk Songs*, and the latter being a politically correct adaptation.

Recommendation:		Recommendation Notes: Because of the
	Fine to use with context	intention of this song and its racial insensitivity, it
	Use at your own discretion	is not appropriate for any classroom usage. The
প্	Unfit for the classroom given the current	first verse describes killing Indigenous peoples
	academic information provided	with a flintlock. Later in the song it describes
		scaring Black people, referring to them as the N-
		word. The lyrics also contain the name "Dinah,"
		which is a slur for slave women. The verse then
		goes on to describe "Dinah" casting a spell which
		is in reference to the practice of Voodoo. The
		song endorses the terrorizing of Black people and
		reinforces stereotypes such as voodoo.

Score:

(Lomax 1949)

Daniel Boone on Pinnacle Rock, He killed Indians with an old flintlock

Cumberland Gap is a noted place, Three kinds of water to wash your face

Cumberland Gap with its cliff and rocks, Home of the panther, bear, and fox

September mornin' in Sixty-two, Morgan's Yankees all withdrew

They spiked Long Tom on the mountain top, And over the cliffs they let him drop

They burned the hay, the meal and the meat, And left the rebels with nothing to eat Braxton Brag with his rebel hand, He run George Morgan to the bluegrass land

The rebels now will give a little yell, They'll scare the n*ggers all to Hell

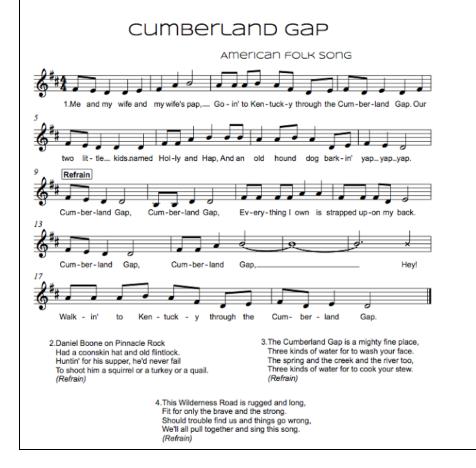
Ol'Aunt Dinah, eff you don't keer, Leave my little jug settin' right here

Ef's it's not here when I come back I'll raise hell in the Cumberland Gap

Ol' Aunt Dinah took a little spell, Broke my little jug all to Hell

I've got a woman in the Cumberland Gap She's got a boy that calls me 'pap'.

Me an' my wife an' my wife's gran'pap, All raise Hell in the Cumberland Gap



Variations:

Sources:

Civil War Comes to Cumberland Gap. (n.d.). Retrieved December 12, 2020, from <u>https://www.nps.gov/cuga/learn/historyculture/civil-war-comes-to-cumberland-</u> <u>gap.htm#:~:text=During%20the%20Civil%20War%2C%20both,lines%20along%20the%20southe</u> <u>rn%20railroad</u>.

J Lomax, J. A., Lomax, A., & Kittredge, G. L. (1949). *American Ballads and Folk Songs: Coll. et compiled*. New York: Macmillan.