

Piece: Cumberland Gap	Head Researcher: Grant Singer
Composer and/or Arranger: Trad.	Assistant Researchers:
Culture of Origin: American, Appalachia	
<p>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 <i>American Ballads and Folk Songs</i> 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 <i>American Ballads and Folk Songs</i>, and the latter being a politically correct adaptation.</p>	
<p>Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fine to use with context <input type="checkbox"/> Use at your own discretion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unfit for the classroom given the current academic information provided 	<p>Recommendation Notes: Because of the intention of this song and its racial insensitivity, it is not appropriate for any classroom usage. The first verse describes killing Indigenous peoples 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.</p>
<p>Score: (Lomax 1949) Daniel Boone on Pinnacle Rock, He killed Indians with an old flintlock</p> <p>Cumberland Gap is a noted place, Three kinds of water to wash your face</p> <p>Cumberland Gap with its cliff and rocks, Home of the panther, bear, and fox</p> <p>September mornin' in Sixty-two, Morgan's Yankees all withdrew</p> <p>They spiked Long Tom on the mountain top, And over the cliffs they let him drop</p> <p>They burned the hay, the meal and the meat, And left the rebels with nothing to eat</p>	

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

cumberland gap

AMERICAN FOLK SONG



1.Me and my wife and my wife's pap, Go - in' to Ken-tuck-y through the Cum-ber-land Gap. Our



5 two lit - tle... kids named Hol-ly and Hap, And an old hound dog bark-in' yap-yap-yap.



9 Cum-ber-land Gap, Cum-ber-land Gap, Ev-ery-thing I own is strapped up-on my back.



13 Cum-ber-land Gap, Cum-ber-land Gap, Hey!



17 Walk - in' to Ken - tuck - y through the Cum - ber - land Gap.

2. Daniel Boone on Pinnacle Rock
Had a coonskin hat and old flintlock.
Huntin' for his supper, he'd never fail
To shoot him a squirrel or a turkey or a quail.
(Refrain)

3. The Cumberland Gap is a mighty fine place,
Three kinds of water for to wash your face.
The spring and the creek and the river too,
Three kinds of water for to cook your stew.
(Refrain)

4. This Wilderness Road is rugged and long,
Fit for only the brave and the strong.
Should trouble find us and things go wrong,
We'll all pull together and sing this song.
(Refrain)

Variations:

Sources:

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

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