

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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MISSION 1: "For Crown or Colony?"

"The Liberty Song" by John Dickinson, 1768

"The Liberty Song," published in the Boston Gazette in 1768, was written to be sung to the tune of a popular English tune called "Heart of Oak." Perhaps the first patriotic song in America, its lyrics were written by John Dickinson, a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly who later fought in the Revolutionary War and became Governor of Pennsylvania.

Come, join hand in hand, brave Americans all,
And rouse your bold hearts at fair Liberty's call;
No tyrannous acts shall suppress your just claim,
Or stain with dishonor America's name.

Chorus

In Freedom we're born and in Freedom we'll live.
Our purses are ready. Steady, friends, steady;
Not as slaves, but as Freemen our money we'll give.

Our worthy forefathers, let's give them a cheer,
To climates unknown did courageously steer;
Thro' oceans to deserts for Freedom they came,
And dying, bequeath'd us their freedom and fame.

Chorus

The tree their own hands had to Liberty rear'd,
They lived to behold growing strong and revered;
With transport they cried, Now our wishes we gain,
For our children shall gather the fruits of our pain.

Chorus

Then join hand in hand, brave Americans all,
By uniting we stand, by dividing we fall;
In so righteous a cause let us hope to succeed,
For heaven approves of each generous deed.

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Source: John Dickinson, "The Liberty Song," *The Boston Chronicle*, August 29, 1768; from the Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.