Welcome to the New World
(Exploration)

We came across the ocean in search of fame and fortune,
and landed in the Indies, so we thought.
But much to our astonishment, we found a whole new continent
even better than the one we lost.

CHORUS:
Welcome to the New World!
It seems everybody is here.
There’s plenty of room, but you’d better come soon—
the New World is growing each year,
and it seems everybody is here.

The French are in Canada, Spain controls Florida,
and they’ve got most of the West.
King George governs most of the Eastern seacoast,
and he’s trying to take all the rest.

CHORUS

The rivers and forests are full of explorers,
all wandering around getting lost.
There’s Cortés and Cartier, Hudson and Jolliet,
and they all think they’re the boss.

CHORUS

There’s gold in the mountains,
and maybe a fountain of youth,
if you know where to look.
There are claims to be staking and fortunes
for making or taking, by hook or by crook.

CHORUS

There are trappers and traders here,
pilgrims and pioneers,
prisoners, pirates, and farmers.
There are doctors and lawyers
and cobblers and sawyers,
what we could use is a barber!

CHORUS
The People of the Land
(Native Americans)

We lived in the forests and in the mountains, 
in deerskin tipis and wooden houses. 
We were nomads and village dwellers, 
living in igloos and earthen shelters.

And we marked the passing of seasons 
from the time that time began. 
For generations we were the people of the land. 
We were the people of the land.

We lived on maize, squash, and beans. 
We gathered berries and fished in the streams. 
We hunted caribou, elk, and deer, 
and looked to the land to provide for our needs.

We played games and we told stories. 
We loved to sing and we loved to dance. 
From many nations, we were the people of the land. 
We were the people of the land.

We were the Choctaw, we were the Cherokee, 
We were the Seneca and the Shoshone, 
We were the Nez Percé, we were the Navajo, 
We were the Apache and the Arapaho.

And we flew like the eagle, 
like the buffalo, we ran. 
From sea to sea, we were the people of the land. 
We were the people of the land.

We are the people of the land.
The Tea and the Taxes
(American Revolution)

Listen my children, and you'll hear what happened—the strangest tea party that you can imagine. The teapot we used was the harbor of Boston, and King George sent over the tea.

You see, he wanted us to pick up the expenses—of paying his army, maintaining defenses—and the argument came to a head in December of 1773.

CHORUS:
Now it's hi, ho, over it goes, into the Boston Harbor. With hatchets and axes, the tea and the taxes went into the Boston Harbor.

We couldn't vote, but they made us pay taxes on sugar and paper, on glass and molasses, the lead in our bullets, the paint on our houses. We even paid taxes on stamps.
The Tea and the Taxes
(continued)

And when we protested, they told us, "Be quiet or you'll be arrested," then there was a riot. The King sent in troops to restore law and order and that's when the trouble began.

CHORUS

Now we don't take kindly to red-coated soldiers, or tax men enforcing tyrannical orders. So when they put a tax on our tea, we decided that we couldn't take any more.

For you know, here in Boston, we do love our tea, but we cherish our freedom much more, so you see we took the ax to the tea and the tax and threw the whole lot overboard.

CHORUS

With a shout from Sam Adams, we marched to the docks. We were dressed up like Indians with tomahawks. We opened up 342 boxes and dumped them right over the edge.

The tide was quite low and the tea was abounding. Right up to the sides of the ship it was mounding. The captain and crew, they were all quite astounded, when we quietly swept up the decks!

CHORUS (repeat 2 times)
Freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the right to meet together, to talk about our gripes—it's in the Bill of Rights.

The first ten amendments to the Constitution are the rights that we won in the revolution. The founding fathers wrote them down in black and white. It's all right there in the Bill of Rights.

They can't put soldiers up in your house. They can't come knocking and shake you down without permission, in the day or night. It's in the Bill of Rights.
The Bill of Rights Rag
(continued)

The Fifth Amendment says you can't be pressured
to testify against yourself if you're arrested.
Everybody gets a fair and speedy trial.
It says so there in the Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights...they're there when you need 'em.
The Bill of Rights...the Constitution guaranteed 'em.
The Bill of Rights...it's all about freedom.
Let's hear three cheers for the Bill of Rights!

The Eighth Amendment says always try
to make sure the punishment fits the crime
and don't set bail or fines too high.
It's in the Bill of Rights.

And any other rights we forgot to mention
belong to the people or the ones they elected
to represent them to the powers on high.
That's what it says in the Bill of Rights.
Lewis and Clark on a mission exploratory
boldly searched the great unknown.
They crossed the vast Louisiana Territory,
looking for a route to the western shore.

President Jefferson sent them on the trip.
He told them, "Keep your eyes open, tell me what you find."
Maybe there'll be unicorns, seven-foot beavers,
maybe prehistoric creatures, legendary lost tribes.

CHORUS:
What a grand adventure, what a traveler's dream,
seeing sights hardly anyone had ever seen.
From the mighty Mississippi to the western sea,
it was a grand adventure indeed.

They left St. Louis in the spring of 'aught-four
up the wild Missouri in a wooden riverboat,
three-three men, two horses, and a dog,
a compass, and twelve pounds of soap.

They spent the winter with the Mandan people
in the land of the Dakotas, where they took a little rest.
They met a young woman named Sacagawea
and she went along with them when they headed on west.

They took a wrong turn in mid-Montana.
But with Sacagawea acting as their guide,
they came to the foot of the Rocky Mountains
and made their way across the Continental Divide.
The trail was treacherous, long and hard,  
and they nearly starved, nearly froze to death.  
But then in the distance, they saw the Pacific  
and they knew that they had made it all the way to the West.

It was a long, wet winter, on the western shore,  
three thousand miles away from home.  
It rained for weeks, then it rained some more,  
and in the spring they couldn't wait to go home.

They crossed the mountains and hurried back east  
They couldn't wait to tell of all the things they'd seen:  
prairie dogs, antelope, vast herds of buffalo,  
and great big grizzly bears the size of trees.

The people all cheered when they saw them coming,  
'cause everybody figured that they must have died.  
After twenty-eight months, they returned home heroes,  
having traveled pretty nearly 8,000 miles.

CHORUS (repeat 2 times)
The Ballad of Bronco Charlie

(Westward Expansion)

My name is Bronco Charlie, I rode the Pony Express.
We started in Missouri and took those ponies west,
for twenty-five dollars weekly and a chance to ride the wind.
If I were young I'd do it all again.

We rode through rain and thunder, across the prairie wide,
with arrows flying 'round us, trouble on every side.
We risked our necks delivering news and carrying the mail,
no matter what, we did it without fail.

CHORUS: It was twenty-five miles between the stations—
the fastest means of communication
from the East Coast clear out to the West.
What a great old, glorious story — the Pony Express.

I started at eleven, weighed barely 90 pounds,
but I was proud to ride with the bravest men around.
Like good old Wild Bill Hickok and the famous Buffalo Bill,
We galloped over deserts, sand, and hills.

Through the Western Territories, on the path of pioneers,
all the way to Sacramento, where we were met with cheers.
Two thousand miles of rugged riding in the rain or shine,
Summer, winter, in the day or night.

CHORUS

We carried all the latest news to the western shore —
Abe Lincoln's first election and the start of Civil War—
in half the time it used to take for news to reach the West.
We made the trip in ten days, maybe less.

But when they strung the telegraph, it made us obsolete
With letters flying over wires, how could we compete?
That was the final chapter of the bravest and the best,
who rode into the history of the West.

CHORUS
Gettysburg
(Civil War)

We came from Massachusetts, we came from Tennessee, and we met in Pennsylvania, in July of '63. In a place called Gettysburg, just a quiet little country town, the armies of the North and South, and we laid our bodies down.

CHORUS:
O little town of Gettysburg, how still we see thee lie, now that the battle is over, and the storm has passed us by.

The thunder of the cannons shook the earth beneath our feet. The smoke from all the shooting was so thick, we couldn't see. And marching through those open fields, men and boys in blue and gray, like stalks of wheat in endless rows, fell before the reaper's blade.

CHORUS
We were fighting for the Union. We were fighting for our rights. But in that little Pennsylvania town, we were mostly fighting for our lives.

Some of them were strangers, some of them were friends. Sometimes you couldn't tell the difference, you could only pray that it would end soon.

By the time that it was over, on the fourth of July, fifty thousand men had fallen, as the rain fell from the sky. They say it was the turning point of that bloody Civil War, but at the time, it was hard to remember what we were even fighting for.

CHORUS
Freedom Train
(Underground Railroad)

I'm riding on a train, and I don't know where I'm bound.
I don't know the conductor's name, or when I'll reach the next town.
I can't see the road ahead, haven't seen a friendly face,
but I can see a bright star shining, leading me to a better place.

CHORUS
   And the name of the train is freedom.
   It's the train out of slavery.
   I'm on the train to freedom,
   and soon I will be free.

This train doesn't have an engine, doesn't have an engineer.
It doesn't ride on iron rails, there's no coal or freight cars here.
It never runs through town, and it only runs at night.
Got to keep this railroad secret, keep the passengers out of sight.

CHORUS

Everything I own is right here in this sack,
and when I reach the border, I won't be coming back.
I can hear the hunter's shout, and the barking of the hounds.
I'm hungry, cold, and weary, but this train ain't stopping now.

CHORUS (repeat 2 times)
Marvelous Machines
(The Age of Invention)

A new day is dawning and everything's changing
as brand new inventions keep coming our way.
The folks in the past never could have imagined
the wonders we see every day.

We can watch moving pictures right there on the screen,
hear music play on a talking machine.
Our houses are spotless, our clothes are all clean,
and it's thanks to those marvelous machines!

The typewriter makes letter writing so easy.
Disposable razors give a good, clean shave.
The mimeograph makes printing so speedy,
think of all the time that we save!

We can soar like a bird in a flying machine,
talk to Aunt Clara, out in Abilene.
We've got news on the hour by radio beam,
and it's thanks to those marvelous machines!
The wonders of communication,
travel, and illumination,
all are cause for celebration.
And we’re not through yet!

Miracles of transportation,
industry, and aviation,
give us time to take vacations.
What will they do next?

Now we can take pictures by pressing a button,
and turn on a light at the flick of a switch.
The electric icebox, the iron, and oven,
are changing the way that we live.

It’s the age of invention, the era of dreams,
full of gadgets and gizmos like you’ve never seen,
fantastic ideas and ridiculous schemes,
and it’s thanks to those marvelous, fabulous,
glorious, wonderful, marvelous machines!
Where Are We Going?

(Immigration)

Where are we going?
What will we see?
And when we get there
who will we be?

We left our homeland
and crossed the sea.
We were so tired
but we still had dreams.

We dreamed of work.
We dreamed of food.
We dreamed of freedom
to live as we choose.

And then we saw her
holding the flame—
twelve million people,
and still we came.

Where are we going?
What will we see?
And when we get there
who will we be?