

## Folk Song Remix

Thanks to the American Folklife Center Archive Challenge [www.loc.gov/film-and-videos/?q=%22Archive+Challenge%22&loclr=blogflt](https://www.loc.gov/film-and-videos/?q=%22Archive+Challenge%22&loclr=blogflt).

Music is part of everyone’s culture. The songs associated with each person’s culture are called folk songs. These traditional songs are part of everyday life and pass along from one generation to the next, one person to another. Folk songs take many forms, from children’s game songs such as “Duck, Duck, Goose” to story songs like the Mexican ballads known as *corridos*. When thinking about folk songs in your life, start with bedtime songs or songs you hear during special holidays. In a time of pandemic, isolation can feel lonely. Since you can’t sing “Happy Birthday” at your friends’ birthday parties or hear a grandparent sing “Will the Circle Be Unbroken” after a family meal, here is a creative way to interact with favorite folk songs. Follow these directions to tap into familiar folk songs and give them your own, unique spin by remixing them!

**Supplies** Pencil, paper, optional phone for recording, optional computer for bonus activities

### Directions

1. Write down a list of familiar folk songs. Remember that folk songs include nursery rhymes, lullabies, game songs, hymns, ballads, school songs, birthday songs, blues, protest songs, etc. Feel free to choose, knowing you have a lot of options. If you have trouble thinking of one, ask a family member for suggestions. (See our Song Interview activity <https://www.locallearningnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/LLResourcesSongInterviewWorksheet.pdf>.)
2. Pick a genre of music that you like. Your options are endless, but examples might include hip-hop, country, K-Pop, etc.
3. Remix your folk song by singing it to the tune of or in the style of your favorite genre. Do not worry if you do not know how to play an instrument, just your voice will work! Practice and then record if you want to share your remix.
4. Play your remix for family and friends, whether in person or virtually. If you share online on a social media platform, make sure you have your parents’ permission.

### Bonus Activities

- Check out the American Folklife Center Archive Challenge remix videos at <https://www.loc.gov/film-and-videos/?q=%22Archive+Challenge%22&loclr=blogflt>.
- Add visual art to your remix and see examples in the Vermont Folklife Center Archive Challenge [www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/covid19-updates/folklife-challenge](http://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/covid19-updates/folklife-challenge).
- Find lots of folk songs in the AFC Archives <https://www.loc.gov/search/?fa=partof:american+folklife+center&loclr=blogflt>.