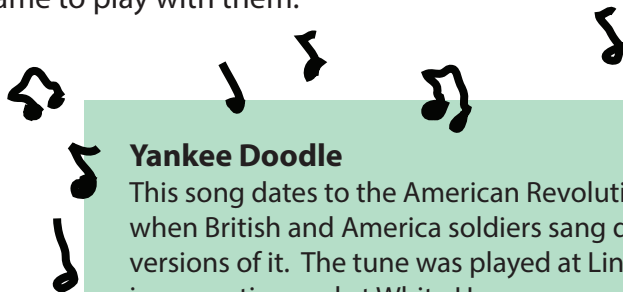
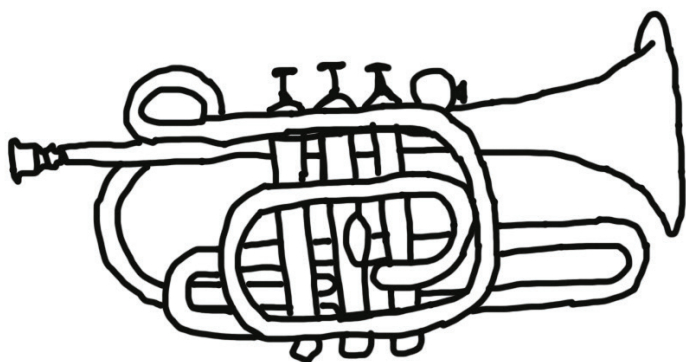


Mary Todd Lincoln House Family Fun

The Musical Lincolns

The Lincoln family liked music! They attended band concerts on the White House lawn and invited famous musicians to perform for guests inside the mansion. Tad and Willie Lincoln sang in a show they held in the White House attic. The Lincolns also enjoyed music at dances, parades, and the opera. Here are some of their favorites and a game to play with them:



Yankee Doodle

This song dates to the American Revolution, when British and America soldiers sang different versions of it. The tune was played at Lincoln's inauguration and at White House concerts.

Yankee Doodle went to town,
A-riding on a pony
Stuck a feather in his hat,
And called it macaroni.

Refrain

Yankee Doodle, keep it up,
Yankee Doodle dandy
Mind the music and the step,
And with the girls be handy.

The Battle Hymn of the Republic

Julia Ward Howe wrote the words for this song in 1861. When Abraham Lincoln heard it at a rally, he yelled "Sing it again!" It became a favorite of his and was performed at his funeral in Illinois.

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming
of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the
grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His
terrible swift sword:
His truth is marching on.

Refrain

Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

My Country 'Tis of Thee/America

This song was an unofficial U.S. anthem during the Civil War. Mary Dines remembered singing it for Abraham Lincoln in a temporary camp for former slaves in Washington, D.C., and recalled that the president sang along.

My country, 'tis of thee
Sweet land of liberty
Of thee I sing;
Land where our fathers died
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountainside
Let freedom ring.

Let music swell the breeze
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break
The song prolong.

MARY TODD LINCOLN



mthhouse.org

Mary Todd Lincoln House Family Fun

The Musical Lincolns 2

Musical Chairs

- You will need
- Chairs
- Music recording (or a singer)
- At least 4 players

Get ready

- Appoint one player to be in charge of the music.
- Make a circle of chairs with the seats facing outwards, with one less chair than the number of remaining players.

Get set

- Players line up around the seats.

Go!

- The player in charge of the music starts the recording (or starts singing).
- Players walk slowly around the outside of the chair circle.
- When the music stops, players try to sit in one of the chairs. The player who doesn't get a seat is "out."
- Remove one chair and repeat.

Lincoln Family Favorites for Musical Chairs

Saxton's Cornet Band, based in Lexington, Kentucky, plays mid-19th century music on period instruments. Find their versions of "Yankee Doodle," "Home Sweet Home," and others on YouTube.

Francis Scala, the leader of the Marine Band, wrote a polka in Mary Lincoln's honor. Find "The Mary Lincoln Polka" at <https://soundcloud.com/vishneskiaudio/mary-todd-lincoln-polka>

