



COUNTRY

Aaron Carr

MY FAVORITE MUSIC



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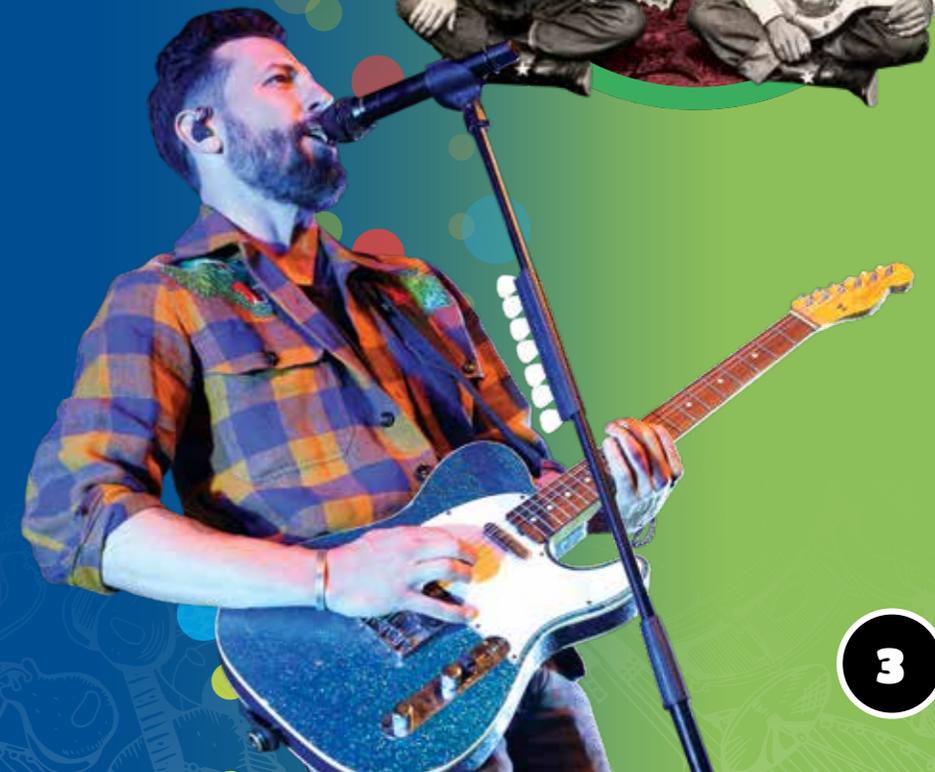
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Contents

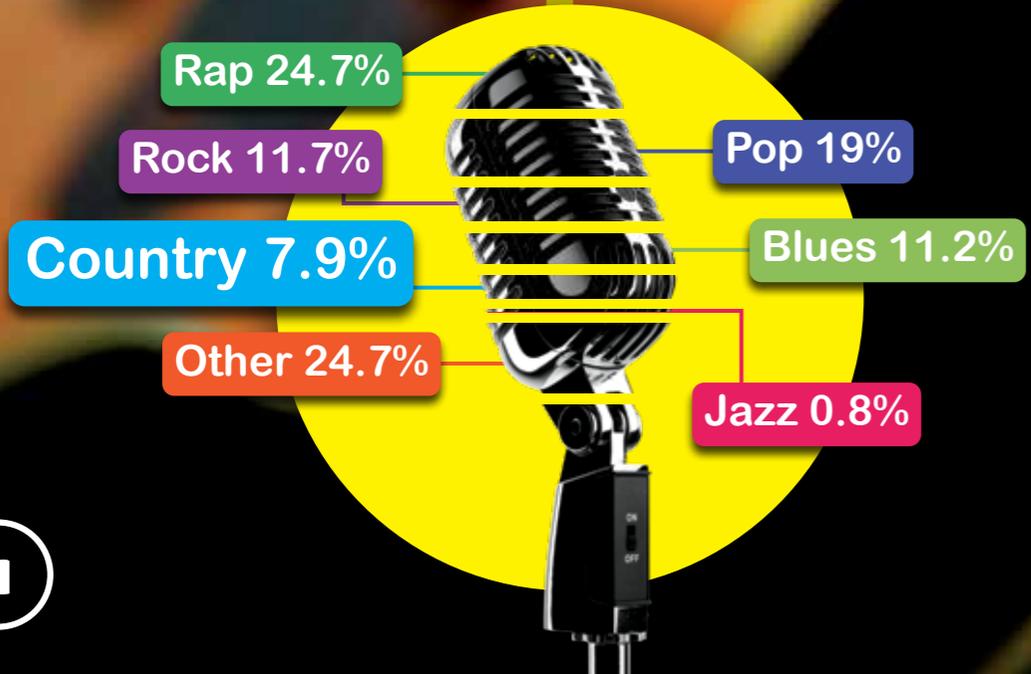
- 2 AV2 Book Code
- 4 When Did Country Start?
- 6 Where Did Country Come From?
- 8 Early Country Artists
- 10 Singing Country
- 12 What Are Country Songs About?
- 14 Instruments
- 16 In a Band
- 18 Country Today
- 20 I Love Country Music
- 22 Country Facts
- 24 Key Words



I love music.

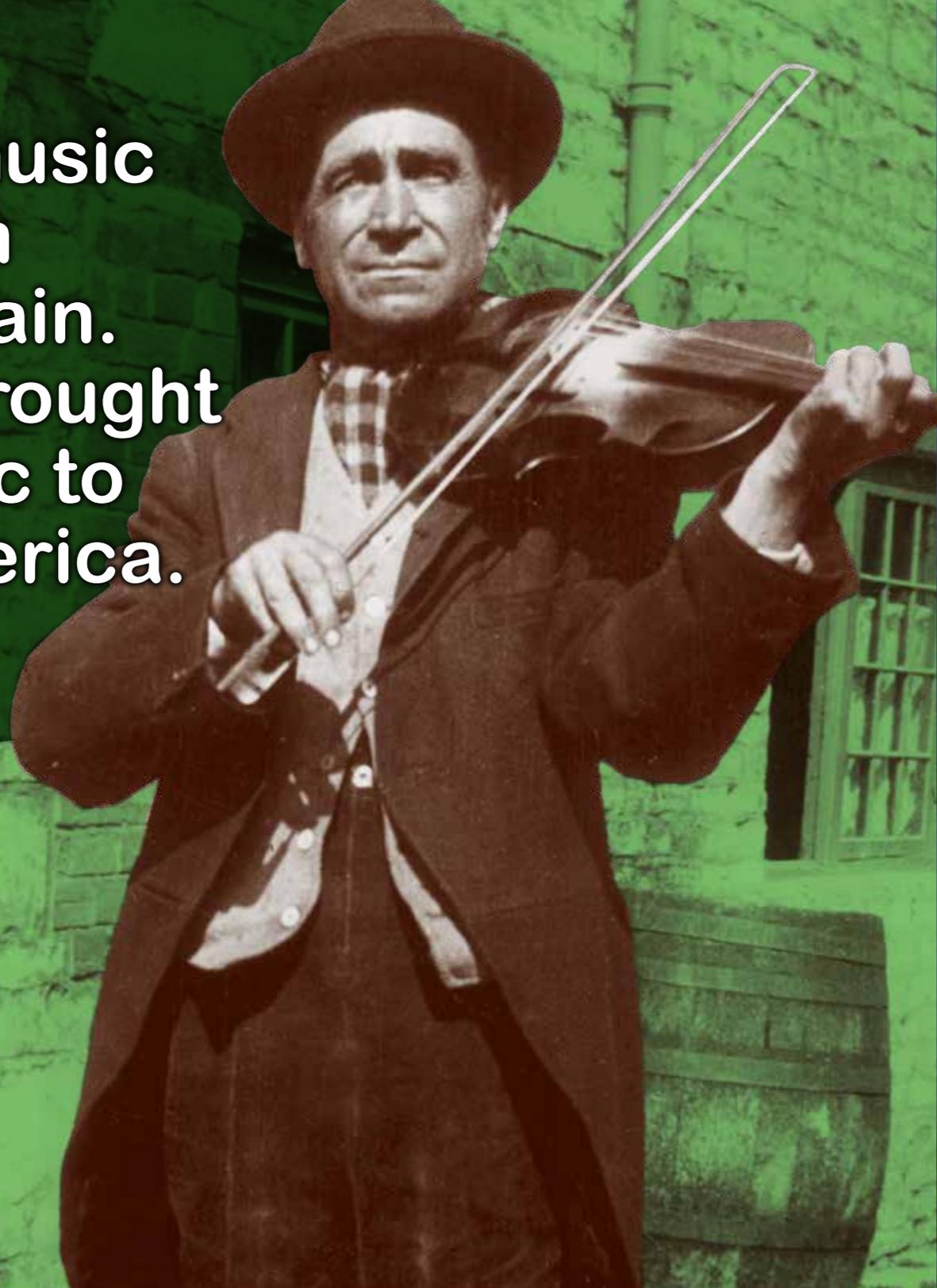
Country is my favorite kind of music.

Most Popular Music in the United States



Country music began in the United States in the early 1900s.

Country music came from Great Britain. Settlers brought their music to North America.



6

The first country songs were made in the southern United States.



7



Some of the first country singers were cowboys.

Most early country music was played on the fiddle.





Country singers often have Southern accents.



Many country singers are known for their twang.

Country songs
tell stories about
everyday life.



Many country songs
tell love stories.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands playing a vibrant red acoustic guitar. The person is wearing a blue shirt with floral embroidery. The guitar has a dark fretboard and a circular sound hole with a decorative ring.

Guitars are the most important instruments in country music today.

A photograph of a man wearing glasses and a light-colored sweatshirt with the text 'TWO OCEAN PEACE MARCH' on it. He is seated and playing a steel guitar, which is a long-necked instrument with a flat body and a metal plate. The background is dark and out of focus.

Some country musicians play the steel guitar.

I like to play
country music
with my friends.

Each person
plays a different
instrument.

16

Playing in a
band teaches
us how to
work together.

17

Nashville, Tennessee, is known as the home of country music.

Many country artists live and make music there.

Country musicians tour the world to play music for their fans.





I love
country
music.

20



It teaches
me about
everyday life.

21

COUNTRY FACTS

These pages provide detailed information that expands on the interesting facts found in the book. They are intended to be used by adults as a learning support to help young readers round out their knowledge of each musical genre featured in the *My Favorite Music* series.

Pages
4–5



I love music. Country is my favorite kind of music. Music is the name given to sounds made with voices or musical instruments and put together in a way that conveys emotion. People use music to express themselves. Country is one of the most widely played forms of music in the United States. It is often concerned with family, conservative values, rural life, and cowboy culture. Cowboys are rugged, horse-riding individuals of western America who work with cattle.

Pages
6–7



Country music came from Great Britain. Country music grew out of the folk songs early settlers brought to the American South from England, Scotland, and Ireland. These settlers used music to help keep the traditions of their old homes alive in their new country. They lived in small communities and worked hard to survive. The first country music recordings were made in the early 1920s. Before the 1940s, country music was often referred to as country and western music.

Pages
8–9



Some of the first country singers were cowboys. Cowboy actors such as Gene Autry helped make the cowboy image synonymous with country music. Autry was a multi-talented actor-singer who starred as a cowboy in a variety of popular western movies in the early to mid-1900s. His popularity helped launch his music career, and he went on to record “Tumbling Tumbleweeds.”

Pages
10–11



Country singers often have southern accents. With country music’s rural origins, it is not surprising that country singers have a vocal style that reflects these roots. Country singers tend to stress the accents of their speaking voices in their singing voices. The twang in some country vocals comes from the amount of nasal resonance in a singer’s voice. This occurs when air made by vocal sounds is allowed to pass through and vibrate in the nasal cavity.

Pages
12–13



Country songs tell stories about everyday life. From its earliest beginnings to today, country music has always placed a high importance on storytelling. The lyrical focus of the earliest country songs included characters with simple lives and strong work ethics. Some of the most prominent themes in country lyrics today are love, heartbreak, and a celebration of rural American culture.

Pages
14–15



Guitars are the most important instruments in country music today. Although traditional country music was played on fiddles, acoustic and electric guitars eventually came to define modern country style. Other instruments used in country include the banjo, bass, washboard, dobro, mandolin, and harmonica. Today, most country bands have guitars, basses, and drums. Drums did not become common in country music until the 1960s.

Pages
16–17



I like to play country music with my friends. Playing music with others helps teach children cooperation, teamwork, and how to achieve goals. Children who regularly play music tend to have more confidence and get along better with others. Some students learn better in groups because they do not feel the pressure of having to learn on their own.

Pages
18–19



Nashville, Tennessee, is known as the home of country music. Nashville is the home of the *Grand Ole Opry*, whose radio broadcasts helped spread country music to the rest of the nation and established the city as the center of country music. The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum is also located in Nashville. Today, country artists such as Carrie Underwood and Blake Shelton tour the globe playing shows in arenas, stadiums, and music festivals.

Pages
20–21



I love country music. It teaches me about everyday life. Recent studies suggest that learning and practicing music can be beneficial to a child’s ability to learn. Among these benefits are improved motor skills and dexterity, increased test scores, and even raised Intelligence Quotient, or IQ, scores. Learning music at an early age has also been shown to aid in language development, and to improve reading and listening skills.

KEY WORDS

Research has shown that as much as 65 percent of all written material published in English is made up of 300 words. These 300 words cannot be taught using pictures or learned by sounding them out. They must be recognized by sight. This book contains 53 common sight words to help young readers improve their reading fluency and comprehension. This book also teaches young readers several important content words. These words are paired with pictures to aid in learning and improve understanding.

Page	Sight Words First Appearance	Page	Content Words First Appearance
4	country, I, in, is, kind, my, of, other, states, the	4	blues, jazz, music, pop, rap, rock, United States
5	began	6	Great Britain, North America, settlers
6	America, came, from, great, their, to	8	cowboys, singers
7	first, made, songs, were	9	fiddle
8	some	10	accents
9	most, on, was	11	twang
10	have, often	12	stories
11	are, for, many	14	guitars, instruments
12	about, life, tell	15	musicians, steel guitar
14	important	16	friends
15	play	17	band
16	a, different, each, like, with	18	artists, Nashville, Tennessee
17	how, together, us, work	19	fans
18	and, as, home, live, make, there		
19	world		
21	it, me		

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