

1. First, review the lyrics for “God Save the Thirteen States.” The song was sung to the tune of “God Save the King.” Why do you think the writer of this song wanted to have the song sung to the tune of a British song?

Because he wanted to show the British that the Americans had their own identity, and adapted a British song to show that they could become a country just as powerful as Britain was. He might have also been poking a bit of fun at the king.

2. Look at the third stanza of the song. How does this sum up the reason for revolution?

The third stanza is about how America wanted to be free of Britain so they could be free to govern themselves, but Britain turned a deaf ear to their problems. I don't know if that accurately depicts all the reasons for the revolution, but it is one of the main reasons.

3. Next, view the lyrics for “The World Turned Upside Down.” Legend is that this song was played when Cornwallis surrendered to Washington at Yorktown. Why would this song be fitting according to Britain's view?

The world truly had turned upside down for Cornwallis, because the powerful British army had been defeated by the American colonists and Britain's hated enemies, the French. It must have quite an embarrassing situation, and perhaps this was their way of making light of it.

4. From whose viewpoint is “Johnny Has Gone for a Soldier” sung? How are these lyrics different than the lyrics sung at the end of each episode of *Liberty!*?

The song is sung from the viewpoint of a woman whose husband or lover, Johnny, has left to join the army. The lyrics are different because the song is sung from a third person perspective at the end of each episode of *Liberty!*

5. What do the words in the last stanza of “Johnny Has Gone for a Soldier” symbolize, in your view?

The last stanza talks about dyeing her dress red, which could be because Johnny has died, and begging for bread on the streets, which could refer to the plight of the wives of soldiers during the war, since the soldiers couldn't support their families while off fighting.

6. Next, study the lyrics for *Liberty Song*. In the first stanza, what do you think the author means by “No tyrannous acts shall suppress your just claim or stain with dishonor America's name”.

It could mean that under the new system of government, citizens would have better rights and the government would no longer be able to take advantage of its citizens. It could also be the Americans spiting the British, who they believed took advantage of them.

7. What do you think the message in the chorus of this song is?

The message talks about supporting the revolutionary cause with money (Our purses are ready.), and so it was probably intended to convince wealthy Americans to support the war with their money.

8. How do these songs compare in scope and tone to a song such as “Yankee Doodle,” which is probably more well-known as a Revolutionary-era song? What was the original purpose of “Yankee Doodle?”

Yankee Doodle was originally a derogatory song made up by the British about a stereotypical American, but the revolutionaries modified it and made it their own. It was really another slap at the British. In that respect, all the American patriotic songs are very similar, as they are all intended to drum up support for the revolutionary war.

9. Which one of these songs, in your view, tended to unite colonists the most? Which one the least? Explain your view.

Yankee Doodle, The Liberty Song or God Save the Thirteen States would be most likely to unite the American people, because of their tone. Johnny Has Gone For a Soldier is more sad and anti the war, and The World Turned Upside Down was sung by the British.

10. Speculate on whether music today has the same impact on political, military, and social issues as it did in the 18th Century. Is the impact greater? Less? Explain your answer.

I think that music has a lesser impact on political, military and social issues today. While bands write songs to get across their point of view on a political, military or social topic, I don't think music is used as so much of a recruiting tool these days (although the music in the army commercials is pretty stirring). I think that music was used more in the past in these areas than it is now.