



piano  
fiddle

# Great Grandma

folksong  
Canada c. 1880

3 speeds 120, 150, 190

Key D, first note A(so)  
a cappella count-in: 1- 2 - Great...  
chords

## Great Grandma

folksong  
Canada  
c. 1880  
arr: LJ Clare 2013



1. Great Grand - ma when the west was new,
2. She worked hard sev - en days a week,
3. Twen - ty - one necks Grand - ma had to scrub,
4. Great Grand - ma had a brood - y hen,
5. She could make good mount - ain dew,
6. What she did it was good and right,



wore hoop skirts and \_\_\_\_\_ bus - tles too, \_\_\_\_\_ When in -fants came and the  
 \*to keep grand-dad well \_\_\_\_\_ fed and sleek, then twen-ty-one child - ren all  
 twen-ty-one shirts in the old wash -tub, and twen-ty-one meals all three  
 \*came to her from her cous - in Ben, a pair of pants made a  
 home-baked beans and I - rish stew, Great Grand-dad had to  
 \*worked all day and she slept all night, But girls they now are the



times got bad, She hung right on - to Great Grand-dad.  
 \*came to bless that small home in the wild - er - ness.  
 times a day, it's no won - der her hair turned grey!  
 \*right fine nest, that hen hatched out a coat and vest!  
 kill a goat, Great Grand-ma made a new fur coat.  
 \*oth - er way, Up all night, and they sleep all day.

Great Grandma must have traveled a lot because there are variants on this song in Newfoundland and the United States --sometimes about Great Grandma, sometimes about Great Granddad, always about the trials and tribulations of being a pioneer in the west. The oldest versions are probably from Newfoundland. The song, however, is definitely about further west, sounds like life in Saskatchewan to me (where my family pioneered in the late 1800s).

# New Song: Great Grandma

1 "Many pioneers came with their families. Here's a song about one of the pioneer families ---we don't know if its exactly true, but many of the ideas in it were a true part of pioneer life. After listening, we're going to collect story ideas from the song --so try to keep track of what is happening."



**Play Music** Sing-a-Long Recording  
Great Grandma

hair turned grey

21 children

worked all day

2 Collect ideas from the song that students remember. Note them on chartpaper. Post the words for Great Grandma. Ask: "Find ideas in the song that nobody remembered." Add them to the chartpaper in a different colour marker.

hoop skirts

February

Week One Lesson 20 A

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3 Teach the words and melody to Verse 1 using the rote method.  
 i.e. sing a phrase - students echo  
 or use the rote-learning recording  
 Go over the first verse until the class is able to sing it without the teacher's voice or the recording.

4 Students sing along with the entire song. If possible use the songvideo.



Sing-a-Long Recording  
 Great Grandma

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1. Great Grandma when the west was new  
 Wore hoop skirts and bustles too,  
 When infants came and times got bad,  
 She hung right on to Great Granddad.
2. She worked hard seven days a week  
 to keep Granddad well fed and sleek,  
 then twenty-one children all came to bless  
 that small home in the wilderness.
3. Twenty-one necks Grandma had to scrub,  
 twenty-one shirts in the old washtub,  
 Twenty-one meals all three times a day,  
 It's no wonder her hair turned grey!
4. Great Grandma had a broody hen,  
 came to her from her cousin Ben,  
 a pair of pants made a right fine nest,  
 that hen hatched out a coat and vest!
5. She could make a mountain dew,  
 home-baked beans and Irish stew,  
 Great Granddad had to kill a goat,  
 Great Grandma made a new fur coat.
6. What she did it was good and right,  
 worked all day and she slept all night,  
 But girls they now are the other way,  
 Up all night, and they sleep all day.



My Great Grandfather moved west as the CPR was being built (he worked the telegraph). After completion (1885) workers were given a homestead. He went back to New Brunswick briefly to find a wife. They only had 3 children who survived childhood. My Grandmother was born in 1895 in what is now Saskatchewan.

**Great Grandma**

**Great Granddad**

