

Ae Fond Kiss

Robert Burns

Robert Burns was born near Ayr, Scotland, 25th of January, 1759. He was the son of William Burnes, or Burness, at the time of the poet's birth a nurseryman on the banks of the Doon in Ayrshire. His father, though always extremely poor, attempted to give his children a fair education, and Robert, who was the eldest, went to school for three years in a neighbouring village, and later, for shorter periods, to three other schools in the vicinity.

But it was to his father and to his own reading that he owed the more important part of his education; and by the time that he had reached manhood he had a good knowledge of English, a reading knowledge of French, and a fairly wide acquaintance with the masterpieces of English literature from the time of Shakespeare to his own day. In 1766 William Burness rented on borrowed money the farm of Mount Oliphant, and in taking his share in the effort to make this undertaking succeed, the future poet seems to have seriously overstrained his physique.

In 1771 the family move to Lochlea, and Burns went to the neighboring town of Irvine to learn flax-dressing. The only result of this experiment, however, was the formation of an acquaintance with a dissipated sailor, whom he afterward blamed as the prompter of his first licentious adventures.

His father died in 1784, and with his brother Gilbert the poet rented the farm of Mossgiel; but this venture was as unsuccessful as the others. He had meantime formed an irregular intimacy with Jean Armour, for which he was censured by the Kirk-session. As a result of his farming misfortunes, and the attempts of his father-in-law to overthrow his irregular marriage with Jean, he resolved to emigrate; and in order to raise money for the passage he published (Kilmarnock, 1786) a volume of the poems which he had been composing from time to time for some years. This volume was unexpectedly successful, so that, instead of sailing for the West Indies, he went up to Edinburgh, and during that winter he was the chief literary celebrity of the season.

An enlarged edition of his poems was published there in 1787, and the money derived from this enabled him to aid his brother in Mossgiel, and to take and stock for himself the farm of Ellisland in Dumfriesshire. His fame as poet had reconciled the Armours to the connection, and having now regularly married Jean, he brought her to Ellisland, and once more tried farming for three years. Continued ill-success, however, led him, in 1791, to abandon Ellisland, and he moved to Dumfries, where he had obtained a position in the Excise.

But he was now thoroughly discouraged; his work was mere drudgery; his tendency to take his relaxation in debauchery increased the weakness of a constitution early undermined; and he died at Dumfries in his thirty-eighth year.

Ae Fond Kiss

Ae fond kiss and then we sever
Ae farewell alas forever
Deep in heart-wrung tears I'll pledge thee
Warring sighs and moans I'll wage thee

Who shall say that fortune grieves her
While the star of hope she leaves her
Me nae cheerful twinkle lights me
Dark despair around benights me

I'll not blame my partial fancy
Naething could deceive ma Nancy
For tae see her was tae love her
Love but her and love for ever

Had we ever loved sae kindly
Had we ever loved sae blindly
Never met nor never parted
We would ne'er been broken hearted

Fare thee well by first and fairest
Fare thee well my best and dearest
Thine be ilka joy and treasure
Peace, enjoyment, love and pleasure

Vocabulary:

fond	I am fond of strawberries = I like strawberries
sever	break off a relationship or to cut (e.g. a rope)
farewell	goodbye – poetic, ancient
fare thee well	
grieve	be sad about something – I'm grieving for my dead cat!
despair	extreme sadness – very very sad
cheerful	happy
deceive	to do something and say you didn't, to lie
fairest	from fair – fair, fairer, fairest (prettiest)
dearest	from dear – dear, dearer, dearest (most loved)
treasure	something valuable
pleasure	something nice – a nice feeling – a pleasant feeling
tae	to
thee	you – ancient English
naething	nothing
thy / thine	your / yours – ancient English
ne'er	never
ilka	dialect - every
ma	my

Listen to the song, either sung by your teacher or on tape or CD. Write down the words you here line by line. The whole verse will be repeated several times so that you have time to think about the words. If you don't know, guess!

Ae Fond Kiss

Verse 1:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Verse 2:

- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Verse 3:

- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

Verse 4:

- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.

Verse 5:

- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.

Write down in the boxes below any words you did not understand (You may have to guess how it is spelt or just write down how it sounds):

Below are a few questions you should now answer. Please answer in complete sentences using the information given.

1. What is the name of the writer of this song?
2. In which town was he born?
3. In which country is this town?
4. What did his father do?
5. Which other language did he learn?
6. Where did the family move in 1771?
7. When did his father die?
8. What was the name of his brother?
9. What was the name of his wife?
10. Where and when did he first publish his poems?
11. What did he do at Ellisand?
12. Why did he move to Dunfries?
13. What was his main occupation?
14. How old was he when he died?

A Man's A Man

A Man's A Man for A' That.

Is there for honest poverty That <u>hings</u> his head, an a' that?	- hangs
The coward slave, we pass him by - We dare be poor for <u>a'</u> that!	- all
For a' that, an a' that, Our toils obscure, an a' that, The rank is but the <u>guinea's</u> stamp, The man's the <u>gowd</u> for a' that.	- a unit of currency (21 shillings) - gold
What though on <u>hamely</u> fare we dine, Wear <u>hoddin grey</u> , an a' that? <u>Gie</u> fools their silks, and knaves their wine A man's a man for a' that. For a' that, an a' that. Their <u>tinsel</u> show, an a' that, The honest man, <u>tho' e'er sae</u> poor, Is king <u>o'</u> men for a' that.	- homely - coarse woolen cloth - give - a type of cheap decoration - though ... ever ... so - of
Ye see you <u>birkie ca'd</u> 'a lord,' What struts, <u>an'</u> stares, an a' that? Tho' hundreds worship at his word, He's but a <u>cuif</u> for a' that. For a' that, an a' that, His <u>ribband</u> , star, an a' that, The man o' independent mind, He looks an laughs at a' that.	- fellow ... called - and - fool - ribbon on a medal
A prince can <u>mak</u> a belted knight, A marquis, duke, an a' that! But an honest man's <u>aboon</u> his might <u>Guid</u> faith, he <u>mauna</u> fa' that! For a' that, an a' that, Their dignities, an a' that, The <u>pith</u> o' sense an pride o' worth. Are higher rank than a' that.	- make - above - Good ... must not - centre
Then let us pray that come it may [As come it will for a' that], That Sense and Worth o'er a' the earth, Shall <u>bear the gree</u> an a' that. For a' that, an a' that, It's comin' yet for a' that, That man to man, the world, o'er Shall <u>brithers</u> be for a' that.	- have priority - coming - brothers

Listen to the song, either sung by your teacher or on tape or CD. Write down the words you here line by line. The whole verse will be repeated several times so that you have time to think about the words. If you don't know, guess!

A Man's A Man For A' That

Verse 1:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
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Verse 2:

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Verse 3:

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Verse 4:

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- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.

Verse 5:

- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.

Write down in the boxes below any words you did not understand (You may have to guess how it is spelt or just write down how it sounds):

Below are a few questions you should now answer. Please answer in complete sentences using the information given.

Now write a few of your own sentences about what Robert Burns says in this song:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Auld Lang Syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne!

Chorus.-For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne.
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

And surely ye'll be your pint stowp!
And surely I'll be mine!
And we'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.
For auld, &c.

We twa hae run about the braes,
And pou'd the gowans fine;
But we've wander'd mony a weary fit,
Sin' auld lang syne.
For auld, &c.

We twa hae paidl'd in the burn,
Frae morning sun till dine;
But seas between us braid hae roar'd
Sin' auld lang syne.
For auld, &c.

And there's a hand, my trusty fere!
And gie's a hand o' thine!
And we'll tak a right gude-willie waught,
For auld lang syne.
For auld, &c.

Auld Lang Syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And the days of auld lang syne

Chorus

*For auld lang syne m' dear
For auld lang syne
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
For auld lang syne*

And here's a hand my trusty friend
And give a hand o' thine
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
For auld lang syne



The Burns Supper

The annual celebratory tribute to the life, works and spirit of the great Scottish poet, Robert Burns (1759-1796). Celebrated on, or about, the Bard's birthday, January 25th, Burns Suppers range from stentoriously formal gatherings of esthetes and scholars to uproariously informal rave-ups of drunkards and louts. Most Burns Suppers fall in the middle of this range, and adhere, more or less, to some sort of time honoured form which includes the eating of a traditional Scottish meal, the drinking of Scotch whisky, and the recitation of works by, about, and *in the spirit of the Bard.*

I Gave My Love a Cherry

I Gave My Love a Cherry

1. I gave my love a cherry that had no stone
I gave my love a chicken that had no bone
I gave my love a ring that had no end
I gave my love a baby with no cryin'
2. How can there be a cherry that has no stone
How can there be a chicken that has no bone
How can there be a ring that has no end
How can there be a baby with no cryin'
3. A cherry when its bloomin' it has no stone
A chicken when its pippin' it has no bone
A ring when it's rollin' it has no end
And a baby when it's sleepin' there's no cryin'

Bye Baby Bye

Chorus:

Bye o baby bye o
Bye o baby bye
Poppa's gone to the mailboat
Poppa's gone to the mailboat
Bye o bye (all twice)

Stars shining number number 1, number 2, number 3 good Lord
Bye 'n bye, bye 'n bye, good Lord, Bye 'n bye
Stars shining number number 4, number 5, number 6 good Lord
Bye 'n bye, bye 'n bye, good Lord, Bye 'n bye

Close your weary eyes o
Close your weary eyes
Poppa's gone to the mailboat
Poppa's gone to the mailboat
Bye o bye (all twice)

Stars shining number number 7, number 8, number 9 good Lord
Bye 'n bye, bye 'n bye, good Lord, Bye 'n bye
Stars shining number number 10, number 11, number 12 good Lord
Bye 'n bye, bye 'n bye, good Lord, Bye 'n bye

Bye o baby bye o, Bye o baby bye
Poppa's gone to the mailboat, Poppa's gone to the mailboat
Bye o bye (all twice)

Listen to the song, either sung by your teacher or on tape or CD. Write down the words you here line by line. The whole verse will be repeated several times so that you have time to think about the words. If you don't know, guess!

I Gave My Love a Cherry

Verse 1:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Verse 2:

- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Verse 3:

- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

Write down in the boxes below any words you did not understand (You may have to guess how it is spelt or just write down how it sounds):

Below are a few questions you should now answer.

1. Which country do you think the song comes from?
2. What kind of song is it?
3. What are the four objects the song talks about?
.....
4. Why does the cherry have no stone?
5. Why does the chicken have no bones?
6. Why does the ring have no end?
7. Why isn't the baby crying?

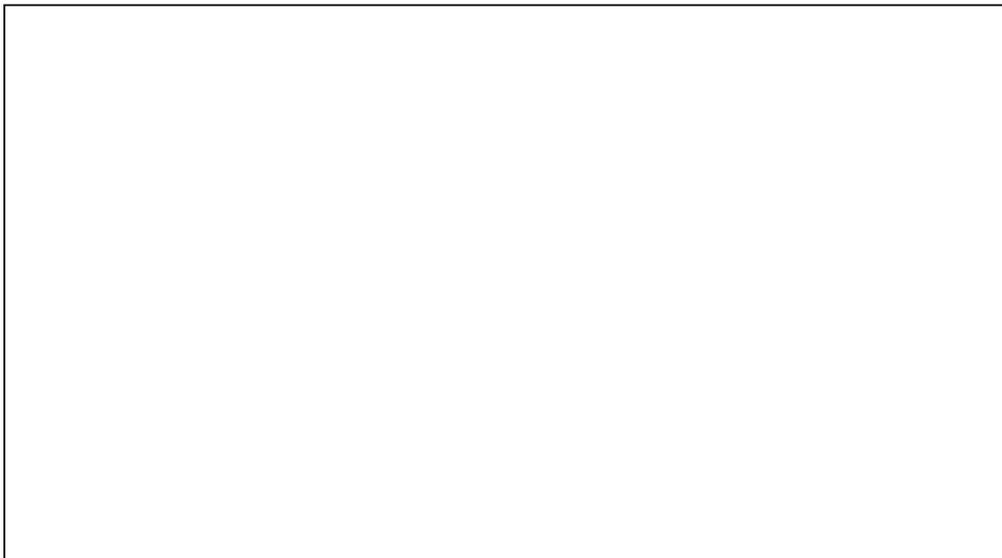
Vocabulary:

cherry	
stone	
chicken	
bone	
ring	
end	
baby	
crying	
blooming	
pipping	
rolling	
sleeping	
poppa	
mailboat	
close	
shining	
weary	

Below, write down the words/phrases you guessed, one by one in the first column. Then write down the correct version of the word/phrase in the second column and in the final column make any notes.

Your Guess	Correct word/phrase	Notes – meaning/ pronunciation etc.

Find and draw/paste a map of the country this song comes from in the box below.



House of the Rising Sun

1. There is a house in New Orleans
They call the Rising Sun
It's been the ruin of many a poor boy
In god, I know I'm one
2. My mother was a tailor
Sewed my new blue jeans
My father was a gamblin' man
Down in New Orleans
3. One foot on the platform
The other on the train
I'm going back to New Orleans
To wear that ball and chain
4. If I'd have listened to what my mother said
I'd have been at home today
But I was young and foolish Oh lord
Let a gambler lead me astray
5. Go tell my baby sister
Not to do what I have done
To shun that house in New Orleans
They call the Rising Sun
6. I'm going back to New Orleans
My race is almost run
I'm going back to spend my life
Beneath that Rising Sun

This song is traditional though it was sung in the 1970s by the pop group the Animals. It tells of the life of a young man in the southern American town of New Orleans, famous for its festivals today. The town was full of gamblers who were not allowed to gamble in the town. They, therefore, gambled on the river boats which sailed up and down the Mississippi river. The town is in the Mississippi Delta, a place where the river meets the sea.

This area has a warm climate and with the warmth comes the floods from the river, swamps, mosquitoes, alligators and all manner of other unpleasant things. It was considered a very unhealthy place to live. After the civil war many families moved there to escape from the victorious Union troops.

It was lawless and life was tough for the inhabitants. These two songs, the House of the Rising Sun and Lakes of Ponchartrain are not from the same time. 'House' is from around the late 19th Century whereas 'Lakes' is earlier, though the words of this version are younger than the original song.

Lakes of Pontchartrain

1. It was one fine march morning, I bid you all adieu
I took the road to Jackson town my fortune to review
I cast out foreign money no credit could I gain
Which filled my heart with longing for the Lakes of Pontchartrain
2. I stepped on board of a railroad car beneath the morning sun
I roamed the roads till evening then I laid me down again
All strangers were no friend to me till a dark girl t'wards me came
And I fell in love with a Creole girl by the Lakes of Pontchartrain
3. I said my pretty Creole girl my money here's no good
If it weren't for the alligators I'd live down in the wood
Your welcome here kind stranger our house is very plain
But we never turn a stranger out by the Lakes of Pontchartrain
4. She took me to her mammy's house and treated me right well
The hair upon her shoulders in jet black ringlets fell
To try to paint her beauty I'm sure 't would be in vain
So handsome was that Creole girl by the Lakes of Pontchartrain
5. I asked her if she'd marry me she said that ne'er could be
For she had got a lover and he was far at sea
She said that she would wait for him and true she would remain
Till he returned to his Creole girl by the Lakes of Pontchartrain
6. Farewell my pretty Creole girl I'll ne'er see you no more
And I won't forget your kindness in that cabin by the shore
And at each social gathering I'll throw a glance and grin
And I'll drink a toast to that Creole girl by the Lakes of Pontchartrain

Lake Pontchartrain Basin

The three large lakes, Maurepas, Pontchartrain, and Borgne cover 55 percent of the basin. Lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain are separated by land bridges of cypress swamp and fresh/intermediate marsh. A brackish marsh land bridge separates Lake Pontchartrain from Lake Borgne.

The basin contains 483,390 acres of wetlands, consisting of nearly 38,500 acres of fresh marsh, 28,600 acres of intermediate marsh, 116,800 acres of brackish marsh, 83,900 acres of saline marsh, and 215,600 acres of cypress swamp. Since 1932, more than 66,000 acres of marsh have converted to water in the Pontchartrain Basin--over 22 percent of the marsh that existed in 1932. The primary causes of wetland loss in the basin are the interrelated effects of human activities and the estuarine processes that began to predominate many hundreds of years ago, as the delta was abandoned. The Mississippi River levees significantly limit the input of fresh water, sediment, and nutrients into the basin. This reduction in riverine input plays a part in the major critical problem in the Pontchartrain Basin--increased salinity. Construction of the

Listen to the song, either sung by your teacher or on tape or CD. Write down the words you here line by line. The whole verse will be repeated several times so that you have time to think about the words. If you don't know, guess!

House of the Rising Sun

Verse 1:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Verse 2:

- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Verse 3:

- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

Verse 4:

- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.

Verse 5:

- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.

Verse 6:

- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.

Vocabulary:

Write down in the boxes below any words you did not understand (You may have to guess how it is spelt or just write down how it sounds):

Below are a few questions you should now answer. Please answer in complete sentences using the information given.

15. Where do these songs come from?
16. In which town does the hero live?
17. In which country is this town?
18. What did his father do?
19. What did his mother do?
20. How did he get home?
21. Who wears a 'ball and chain'?
22. Was his sister older or younger than him ?
23. In 'Lakes' what is the name of the town?
24. Who did he meet near the lakes?
25. Why didn't he sleep in the woods?
26. Did she agree to marry him?
27. Why didn't she agree to marry him?
28. Was he angry about this?

Below, write down the words/phrases you guessed, one by one in the first column. Then write down the correct version of the word/phrase in the second column and in the final column make any notes.

Your Guess	Correct word/phrase	Notes – meaning/ pronunciation etc.

Below, find a map of the area and paste it here or draw your own map. Mark on the towns of Jackson and New Orleans.

Listen to the song, either sung by your teacher or on tape or CD. Write down the words you here line by line. The whole verse will be repeated several times so that you have time to think about the words. If you don't know, guess!

Slow Down You Move Too Fast

Verse 1:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Verse 2:

- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Verse 3:

- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

Write down in the boxes below any words you did not understand (You may have to guess how it is spelt or just write down how it sounds):

No Lights on our Xmas Tree

(Cyril Tawney) - Copyright Cyril Tawney, Recorded by the Watsons

The time has come for festivity
For Christmas pudding and revelry
But as I passed out the other night
I heard a small voice next to me:

chorus: There are no lights on our Christmas tree
We must not spoil the televue
No party games, no mistletoe
Just whistle "Wenceslas", and out you go.

'Bout once a year I become a square
I love to feel the tinsel in my hair
I love to hear the songs of days gone by
But dad and me we don't see eye-to-eye.

The Christmas crackers from uncle Alf
They lie unopened upon the shelf
Dad has forbid them but we're hoping he
Won't notice one more bang in Laramy.

Some carol singers came to our door -
I've never seen dad so mad before.
He grabbed the leader by the coat
And tried to ram his lantern down his throat.

When I grow up and become a man
There'll be no television in my plan
With laughter gay my house will ring
I never want to hear my children sing: [chorus]

Vocabulary:

festivity	
revelry	
mistletoe	
Wenceslas	
square	
Christmas crackers	
Laramy	
carol singers	
grab	
lantern	

Listen to the song, either sung by your teacher or on tape or CD. Write down the words you here line by line. The whole verse will be repeated several times so that you have time to think about the words. If you don't know, guess!

There are no lights on our Christmas Tree

Verse 1:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Chorus:

- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Verse 2:

- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

Verse 3:

- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.

Verse 4:

- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.

Verse 5:

- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 25.

Write down in the boxes below any words you did not understand (You may have to guess how it is spelt or just write down how it sounds):

Below are a few questions you should now answer. Please answer in complete sentences using the information given on the following three pages.

Christmas in England

What is mumming?

What used to happen on Boxing Day?

.....

What is the normal Christmas Dinner?

.....

Christmas in Hungary

Who is Mikulas?

What does Mikulas do?

When does he come?

Christmas in China

Who brings gifts?

What is the tree called?

What is the non-Christian name for this time of year?

.....

Write down below some simple sentences about:

The Christmas pudding coin:

1. *It was lucky to find a coin in the pudding.*

2.

3.

4.

Christmas Cards

1. *Everyone likes getting Christmas cards.*

2.

3.

4.

Father Christmas

1. *Father Christmas brings gifts for everybody.*

2.

3.

4.

Holly

1. *Holly is a plant which has sharp leaves.*

2.

3.

4.

If you look on the next three pages you'll find information from the internet which you can use to answer the questions. Have a look at these sites and find out more information about Christmas and how it is celebrated around the world.

Christmas in England

The English enjoy beautiful Christmas music. They love to decorate Christmas Trees and hang up evergreen branches. One of England's customs is **mumming**. In the Middle Ages, people called mummers put on masks and acted out Christmas plays. These plays are still performed in towns and villages today.

The English gift giver is called **Father Christmas**. He wears a long red robe, and leaves presents in childrens' stockings on Christmas Eve. Children leave an empty stocking or pillowcase hanging at the end of the bed. In the morning they hope it will be full of presents. However, the gifts are not usually opened until the following day. The celebration of Christmas began in England in AD 596, when St Augustine landed on her shores with monks who wanted to bring Christianity to the Anglo Saxons. In England the day after Christmas is called **Boxing Day** because boys used to go round collecting money in clay boxes. When the boxes were full, they broke them open.

Christmas dinner is usually eaten at Midday on December 25.

A long time ago, the only thing that people ate on the day before the feast was **Frumenty**, which is, was a kind of porridge made from corn. Over the years the recipe changed. Eggs, fruit, spice, lumps of meat and dried plums were added. The whole mixture was wrapped in a cloth and boiled. This is how plum pudding began. The traditional English Christmas dinner is roast turkey with vegetables and sauces. For dessert it is rich, fruity Christmas pudding with brandy sauce. Mince pies, pastry cases filled with a mixture of chopped dried fruit (called minced meat).

Christmas in Hungary

In Hungary the main Christmas celebrations take place on Christmas Eve. The evening is called **Szent-este** or Holy Evening. Before attending Midnight Mass, families gather around the Christmas tree to sing carols and open the presents left by Baby Jesus and the angels.

A couple of weeks before Christmas, on December 6th the children receive a visit from **Mikulas** or **St Nicholas**. He arrives wearing the robes of a bishop, with a red miter on his head, a staff in one hand and a sack full of small presents in the other. Accompanying him a "Devil", a boy in a black costume, complete with horns and a long tail. He holds a switch made of dry twigs, ready to smack any "naughty" children. Each child receives a small gift, usually a toy or sweets, from **Mikulas**. The presenting of nativity plays is an important part of the Hungarian Christmas tradition. Performed by groups of children or adults, these plays are often combined with puppets and are accompanied by songs and musical instruments and sometimes even dancing.

Christmas in China

The christian children of China decorate trees with colorful ornaments. These ornaments are made from paper in the shapes of flowers, chains and lanterns. They also hang muslin stockings hoping that **Christmas Old Man** will fill them with gifts and treats.

The Chinese Christmas trees are called "**Trees of Light**." Santa Claus is called **Dun Che Lao Ren** which means "Christmas Old Man."

The non-Christian Chinese call this season the *Spring Festival* and celebrate with many festivities that include delicious meals and pay respects to their ancestors. The children are the main focus of these celebrations, they receive new clothes and toys, eat delectable food and watch firecracker displays.

The Christmas Pudding coin

The most exciting moment at the Christmas dinner is finding out who the lucky person is whose portion of the pudding contains the coin. Children treasure this custom even if the coin is of no value.

The coin in the pudding is attributed to the festivities held in the last days of the Christmas period, Twelfth Night. This is done in memory of the three kings who are said to have arrived in Bethlehem, a mock 'king' would be chosen for the day only. There were several names given for this day also such as the 'King of Misrule' where everything was reversed made topsy turvy, another name for this "king for a day" was "King of the Bean", which was based on the method by which he or she is chosen. A bean was mixed into the cake and baked for the occasion. When the cake was broken up and its pieces distributed among the company, whoever found the hidden bean was supposed to be crowned the 'King of the Bean'. This ancient ritual may be the origin of the modern coin in the pudding.

Another ritual was that belonging to the pagan celebration of Saturnalia where the person who found the coin was killed.

Information based on the site: <http://www.santas.net/>

Another view of Christmas

From November onwards, it is impossible to forget that Christmas is coming. Coloured lights decorate many town centres and shops, along with shiny decorations, and artificial snow painted on shop windows. In streets and shops, 'Christmas trees' (real or plastic evergreen 'conifer' trees) will also be decorated with lights and Christmas ornaments. Shopping centres become busier as December approaches and often stay open till late. Shopping centre speaker systems will play Christmas 'carols' - the traditional Christmas Christian songs, and groups of people will often sing carols on the streets to raise money for charity. Most places of work will hold a short Christmas party about a week before Christmas. Although traditional Christmas foods may be eaten, drink (and plenty of it) means that little work will be done after the party! By mid-December, most homes will also be decorated with Christmas trees, coloured lights and paper or plastic decorations around the rooms. These days, many more people also decorate garden trees or house walls with coloured electric lights, a habit which has long been popular in USA. In many countries, most people post Christmas greeting cards to their friends and family, and these cards will be hung on the walls of their homes. In UK this year, the British Post Office expects to handle over 100 million cards EACH DAY, in the three weeks before Christmas.

Christmas cards

The custom of sending Christmas cards started in Britain in 1840 when the first 'Penny Post' public postal deliveries began. (Helped by the new railway system, the public postal service was the 19th century's communication revolution, just as email is for us today.) As printing methods improved, Christmas cards were produced in large

numbers from about 1860. They became even more popular in Britain when a card could be posted in an unsealed envelope for one half-penny - half the price of an ordinary letter.

Traditionally, Christmas cards showed religious pictures - Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus, or other parts of the Christmas story. Today, pictures are often jokes, winter pictures, Father Christmas, or romantic scenes of life in past times.

The old man with the sack

'Father Christmas' (or 'Santa Claus') has become the human face of Christmas. Pictures will be seen everywhere of the old man with long white beard, red coat, and bag of toys. Children are taught that he brings them presents the night before Christmas (or in some countries on December 6th - St. Nicholas' Day), and many children up to the age of 7 or 8 really believe this is true. In most countries, it is said that he lives near the North Pole, and arrives through the sky on a sledge (snow-cart) pulled by reindeer. He comes into houses down the chimney at midnight and places presents for the children in socks or bags by their beds or in front of the family Christmas tree. In shops or at children's parties, someone will dress up as Father Christmas and give small presents to children, or ask them what gifts they want for Christmas. Christmas can be a time of magic and excitement for children.

Father Christmas - Who was he?

Father Christmas is based on a real person, St. Nicholas, which explains his other name 'Santa Claus' which comes from the Dutch 'Sinterklaas'. Nicholas was a Christian leader from Myra (in modern-day Turkey) in the 4th century AD. He was very shy, and wanted to give money to poor people without them knowing about it. It is said that one day, he climbed the roof of a house and dropped a purse of money down the chimney. It landed in the stocking which a girl had put to dry by the fire! This may explain the belief that Father Christmas comes down the chimney and places gifts in children's stockings.

Boxing Day

In English-speaking countries, the day following Christmas Day is called 'Boxing Day'. This word comes from the custom which started in the Middle Ages around 800 years ago: churches would open their 'alms boxes' (boxes in which people had placed gifts of money) and distribute the contents to poor people in the neighbourhood on the day after Christmas. The tradition continues today - small gifts are often given to delivery workers such as postal staff and children who deliver newspapers.

Making sense of Christmas

Today in the West, not many people consider the religious meaning to Christmas. Most people in UK or Europe will not go to a religious church meeting, even at Christmas. It has become a busy race to spend money on presents, and get ready for the Day. In UK, our shops stay open till late Christmas Eve and often open again on Boxing Day with the cut-price 'sales'. (Not much holiday for the poor shop workers!) A visitor from another world would think that Christmas was a festival to the gods of money and shopping.

What do you want from Christmas?

Many people do hope for more than presents at Christmas. We want to somehow return to a time in our childhood (or some other good time in the past), when life was

simpler and made more sense, before the troubles of adult life arrived. We feel sure that behind all the fun and decorations, there must somehow be a message, something more, some key to life, hope and happiness. So can we look beyond the way Christmas is celebrated today, and find any real meaning, any message for our lives today?

Information from the site: www.soon.org.uk

Christmas Images



Christmas Tree



The Star



Father Christmas



Presents

Holly

For centuries, holly has been the subject of myths, legends, and customary observances. Holly is conventionally associated with masculinity and a symbol of good luck. It decorates the home at Christmas time, and is regarded as a symbol of delight and merriment that brings up thoughts of celebration and good cheer. The Romans used the plant to decorate their houses, temples, and deities for Saturnalia, the mid-winter feast. They exchanged holly boughs as symbols of kindness and friendship. This practice is believed to be the predecessor of holly's use in Christmas celebrations. Centuries later, in December, while other Romans continued their pagan worship, Christians celebrated the birth of Jesus. As Christians increased in number and their customs prevailed, Holly lost its pagan associations and became a symbol of Christmas.

The plant has come to stand for tranquility, joy and merriment. People often settle disputes under a holly tree. Holly is believed to frighten off witches and evil spirits and protect the home from thunder and lightning. In Western England it is believed that twigs of holly around a young girl's bed on Christmas Eve would keep away naughty little goblins. In Germany, a piece that has been used in church decorations is regarded as magic against lightning. The English also mention the "he holly and the she holly" as being the deciding factor in who will dominate the household in the following year, the "he holly" have thorny leaves while a "she holly" have smooth ones. . Other beliefs include, putting a sprig of holly on the bedpost would bring sweet dreams and also making a tonic from holly could be a cure for cold.

(www.christmascarnivals.com/tradition/index.html)

Information collated by Steve Jones

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Vocabulary:

Find a nice Christmas illustration to glue here.

Blow the Man Down

1. She went over the bar on the thirteenth of May

Refrain: To my way hay blow the man down

The galloper jumped and the gale came away

Refrain: Oh give me some time to blow the man down

Chorus:

Blow the man down bullies blow the man down

To my way hay blow the man down

Blow him right back into Liverpool town

Oh give me some time to blow the man down

2. As I was a walkin' down Paradise Street

A flash lookin' packet I chanced for to meet

3. I says to her Polly now how do you do?

She says none the better for the seein' of you

4. Now I'll blow the man up and I'll blow the man down

I'll blow him away into Liverpool town

A shanty, a work song, sung commonly aboard sailing ships during the nineteenth century and up to the middle of the twentieth century.

These songs had a very strong rhythm to which sailors could work, especially pulling ropes or turning the capstan to put up sails or change the rigging. There were repeated lines and men would sing these whilst a 'shanty man' would sing the different lines, often making up new ones as the song was sung. The better ones were then used again and again becoming more and more popular.

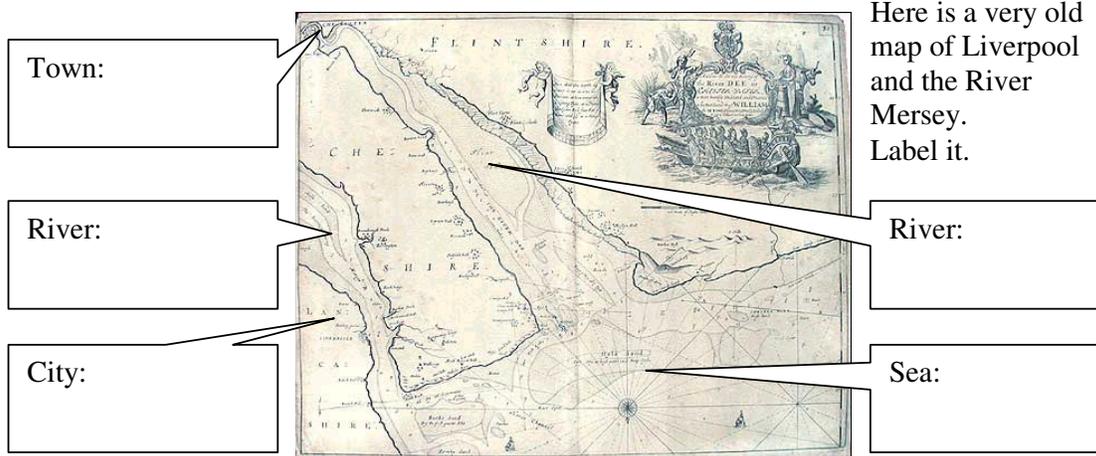
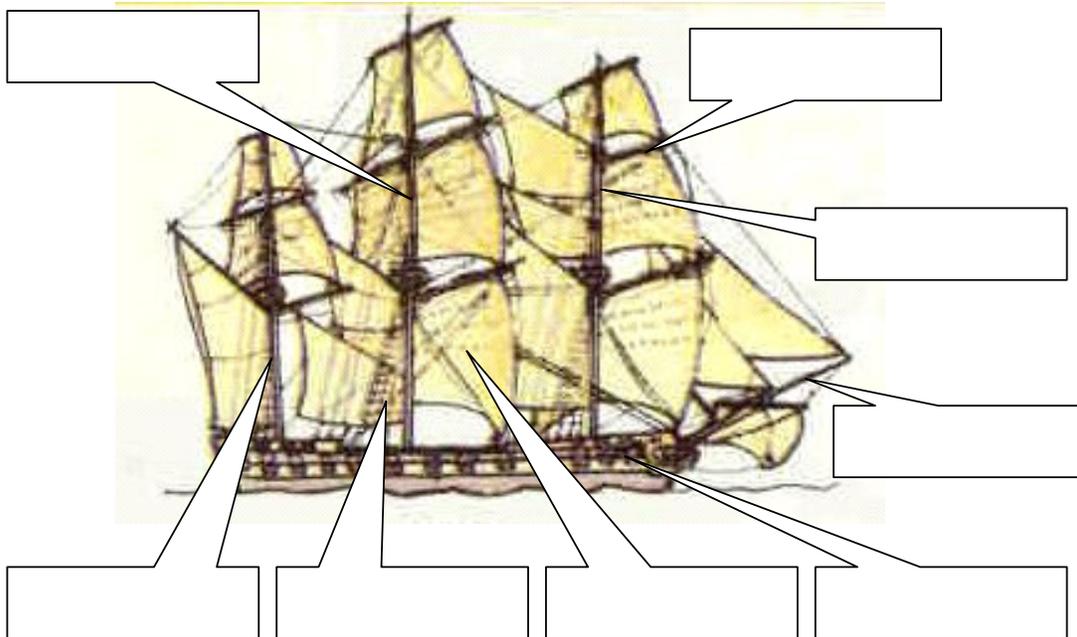
Vocabulary:

bar	Either a wooden beam – log – stretched across a river to stop ships entering or a shallow sand bank in a river.
flash	Adjective meaning attractive, well dressed etc.
packet	A type of small fast sailing vessel often used for carrying mail or dispatches.
shanty	A song sung on ships to work to.
sailor	A man who works on a ship.
capstan	A machine used to help pulling ropes on a sailing ship pushed round by several men.
sails	Pieces of canvas (heavy cloth) used to pull the ship along in the wind.
rigging	Ropes used to hold up the masts and to pull up the sails.
spars	Wooden poles on which sails were hung.
masts	Tall wooden poles used to hang the spars on.

Write **six** sentences about life at sea in sailing ships:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

Label the parts of the sailing ship below



Listen to the song, either sung by your teacher or on tape or CD. Write down the words you here line by line. The whole verse will be repeated several times so that you have time to think about the words. If you don't know, guess!

Blow the Man Down

Verse 1:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Verse 2:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Verse 3:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Verse 4:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Verse 5:

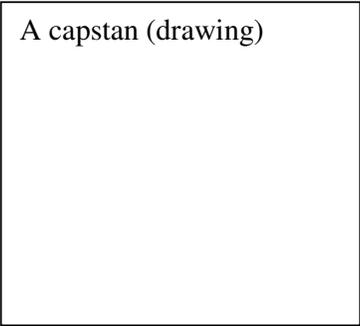
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Vocabulary:

Write down in the boxes below any words you did not understand (You may have to guess how it is spelt or just write down how it sounds):

Below are a few questions you should now answer. Please answer in complete sentences using the information given.

1. Who uses these songs?
2. Where do these people work?
3. Where does this song come from?
4. In the box on the right draw a capstan?
5. Why did sailors need a capstan?
.....
.....
.....
6. When were these songs sung?
7. In which centuries were they common?
8. Why do you think ships are called 'she' not 'he'?
.....
.....
9. How long do you think a voyage would last?
10. What things did ships carry?
11. Was a sailor's life difficult?
12. Is a modern ship faster or slower than the fastest sailing ship?



Below, write down the words/phrases you guessed, one by one in the first column. Then write down the correct version of the word/phrase in the second column and in the final column make any notes.

Your Guess	Correct word/phrase	Notes – meaning/ pronunciation etc.

Find some pictures of sailing ships or draw some below.

Land of the Muskeg

1. Well there's girls in the village and there's girls in the town
And it's a long time, a very long time
When a man is after being out on his own, out on his own
With the whisky-jacks whistling so cheerful and free
In the land of the muskeg and the shining birch tree
The shining birch tree
2. It's all very well in the full of the day
When there's no time, not very much time
For a man to keep thinkin' of the things that don't pay, things that don't pay
And the rapids are rushin' so grand and so free
In the land of the muskeg and the shining birch tree
The shining birch tree
3. At the end of the day when the camp settles down
And the night is cold, so very cold
And old Rory-Bory is shifting around, shifting around
You'll think of the warm ups and laughter so free
In the land of the muskeg and the shining birch tree
The shining birch tree
4. Come the in-between seasons of the freeze-up or the thaw,
And it's let's go - hey, look out let's go,
For we're off for some fun with the girls of the town, the girls in the town.
He's a popular guy when his money flows free
In the land of the muskeg and the shining birch tree,
The muskeg and the shining birch tree.
5. The huskies are haulin' through the cold winter night
Then I recall oh how I recall
I've spent all my money on the girls in the town, girls in the town
So boys save your money or you'll all be like me
In the land of the muskeg and the shining birch tree
The shining birch tree

Vocabulary:

muskeg	Waterlogged ground full of moss and peat
moss	A type of plant which likes wet soil
peat	Decayed plants
rory bory	Aurora borealis – the Northern Lights
birch tree	Common tree in North America and Europe
palm	The flat part of your hand which you use to hold things
hammer man	A man who swings a heavy hammer to drill holes in rock
shaker	The man who holds the drill bit which it hit by the hammer
steel	Another name for the drill and what it is made of
steam drill	A machine for drilling holes in rock driven by steam

Student's page LOM 1

Write **six** sentences about life in North America:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.



On the map above mark on some important towns like New York, Washington DC, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, New Orleans, Vancouver, Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec.

Listen to the song, either sung by your teacher or on tape or CD. Write down the words you here line by line. The whole verse will be repeated several times so that you have time to think about the words. If you don't know, guess!

Land of the Muskeg

Verse 1:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Verse 2:

- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Verse 3:

- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.

Verse 4:

- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.

Verse 5:

- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.

Vocabulary:

Write down in the boxes below any words you did not understand (You may have to guess how it is spelt or just write down how it sounds):

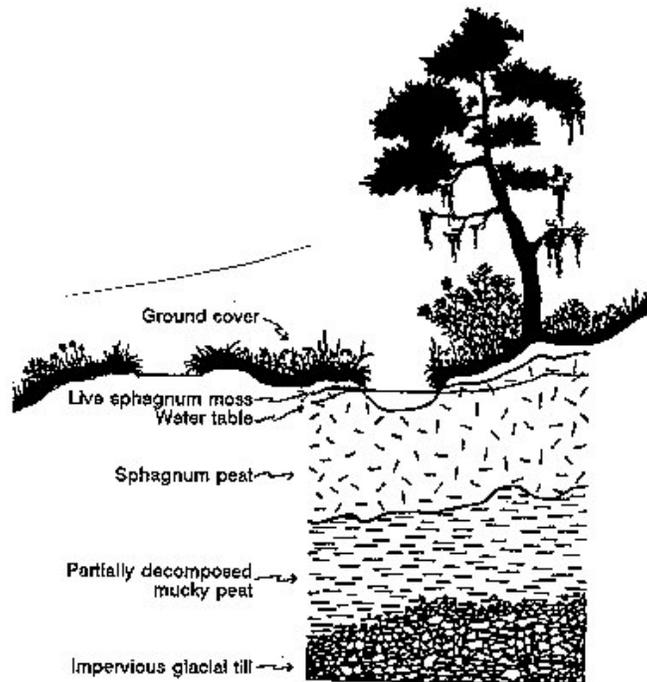
Below are a few questions you should now answer. Please answer in complete sentences using the information given.

1. Which country does this come from?
2. What is their occupation?
3. What is the weather like there?
4. What kind of plants would you find?
5. When did they start work?
6. Where did they go to sell their catch?
7. What did they do with the money they made?
-
8. Do you think it was an easy life?
9. Was it a dangerous occupation?
10. Do people have the same job nowadays?
11. Would you like to do this job?
12. Why was it easier to travel in winter?
13. Why did they come to town in spring?
14. What did they find in the towns?
15. Why did they go back in winter?

Like a soggy blanket draped over the landscape, muskeg, or peat bog, covers more than 10 percent of southeast Alaska. It provides a surprisingly fragile home for an abundance of plants that thrive in the wet, acid soil. During the summer, the flowers on many of them add a carpet of soft color to the muted greens and browns typical of muskeg.

Muskeg itself consists of dead plants in various stages of decomposition, ranging from fairly intact sphagnum peat moss or sedge peat to highly decomposed muck. Pieces of wood, such as buried tree branches, roots, or whole trees, can make up 5 to 15 percent of the soil.

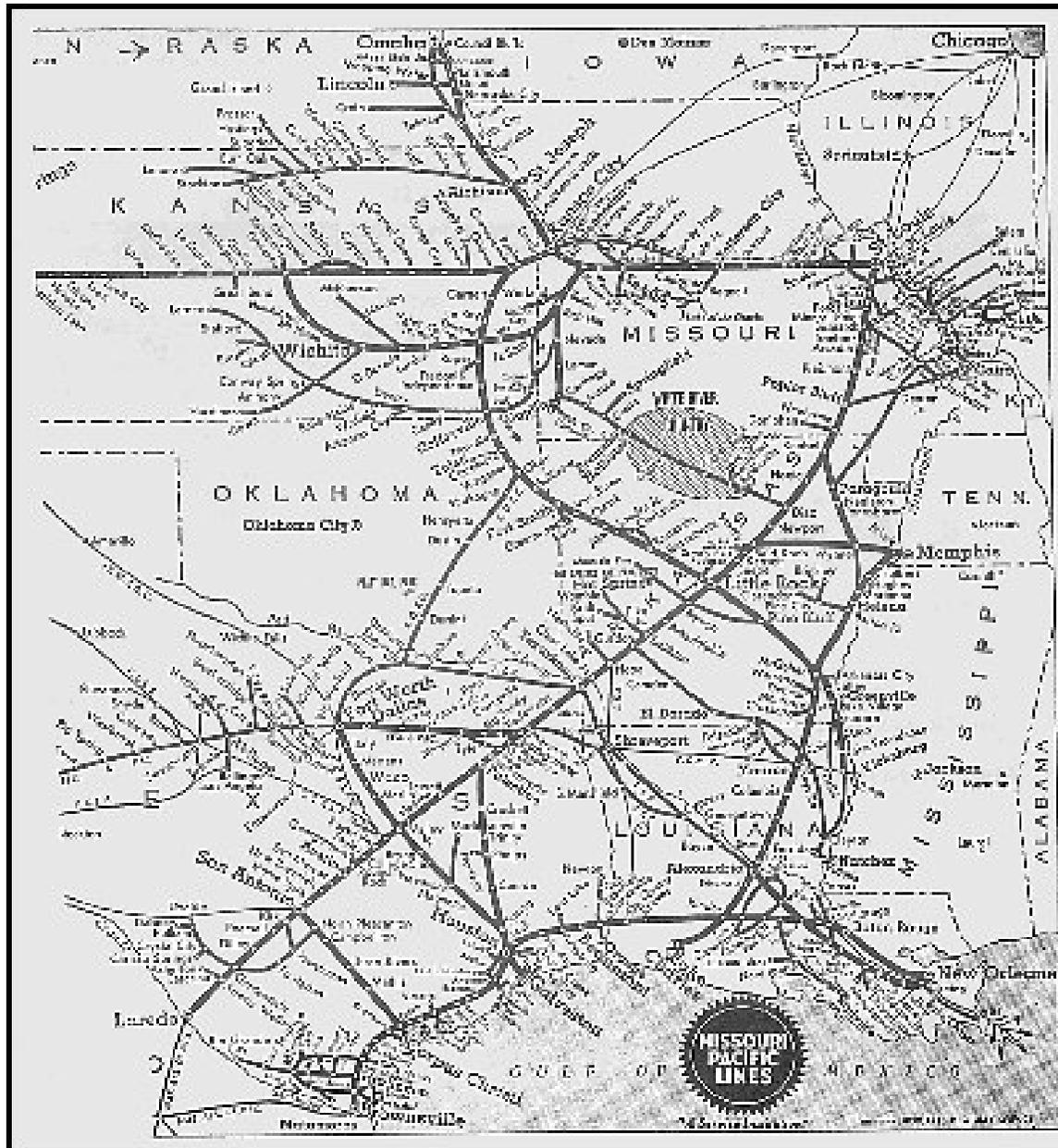
The water level in muskeg is usually at or near the surface. Stepping on muskeg is like stepping on a sponge, and walking across it involves avoiding the multitude of open ponds that range in size from potholes to small lakes. Despite their innocuous appearance, muskeg holes can be more than just messy - they can be dangerous. Some are quite deep and offer no footholds to help the unwary climb back out.



Sphagnum moss is the mainstay of muskeg. It soaks up and holds 15 to 30 times its own weight in water. In the process, it keeps water from draining through the soil. So muskegs can form even on relatively steep slopes, especially in Southeast Alaska's cold wet climate.

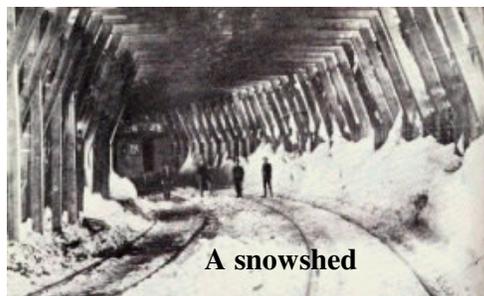
Muskeg is so wet, acid, and infertile that about the only trees that grow in it are a few stunted shore pine (*Pinus contorta*). These may grow only 5 to 15 feet high and less than 10 inches around in 300 to 400 years.

Muskegs need two conditions to develop: abundant rain and cool summers. A dead plant that falls on dry soil is attacked by bacteria and fungi and quickly rots. If that plant lands in water or on saturated soil, though, it faces a different fate. Air can't get to it, so the bacteria and fungi can't function well. The cool temperatures slow them down even more. All this slows decomposition, and the plant debris accumulates to form peat and eventually, a muskeg.



"It took six years to build the Transcontinental Railroad between Omaha, NE and Sacramento, CA. None of it was easy. Roadbeds had to be carved out of the rugged mountains at dizzying heights and angles. Tunnels had to be blasted through those mountains. Crude wooden, tunnel-like "snowsheds" had to be built to protect the tracks, trains and work crews from gigantic snowslides and drifts. Many Central Pacific laborers lived in these windy, frigid snowsheds as the difficult work went on. Throughout the continuing struggle, men died. They died of disease, of the cold, by accident, from bullets, and from tomahawk wounds."

Railroad ruins at Manassas Junction, 1862



A snowshed

