

AQ26 - Arctic Activities

Sea Shanties

Sea shanties are traditional folk songs that were sung by sailors on large ships. Shanties are work songs designed to help sailors coordinate their efforts when performing tasks, help them keep time and make work more enjoyable. Songs were often sung in call and response style.

Try some of these songs at your next camp fire.

Row, Row, Row Your Boat.

Sing this in two teams as a round, with team two starting to sing when the first team reaches the word "Merrily"

"Row, row, row your boat,
Gently down the stream,
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily
Life is but a dream"

A Sailor went to Sea

"A sailor went to sea, sea, sea
To see what he could see, see, see
But all that he could see, see, see
Was the bottom of the deep blue sea, sea, sea

Wellerman

There once was a ship that put to sea
The name of the ship was the Billy O' Tea
The winds blew up, her bow dipped down
Oh blow, my bully boys, blow.

Soon may the Wellerman come
To bring us sugar and tea and rum
One day when the tonguing is done
We'll take our leave and go

When I was....

"When I was 1, I banged my thumb,
On the way to sea,
I jumped aboard a pirates ship
And the captain said to me

We're going this way, that way,
Forwards and backwards
On the deep blue sea
A bottle of rum to fill my tum,
And that's the life for me

(repeat for numbers 2-10 with audience members suggesting rhymes for the numbers e.g. two - buckled my shoe)

MAKE IT BIGGER

Try writing your own sea shanty using the rhyming scheme similar to Wellerman, where the first line rhymes with the second line and the third rhymes with the fourth.

Have a single person act as the "Shanty man" and sign the first verse, with all other members acting as the crew who sing the chorus together.