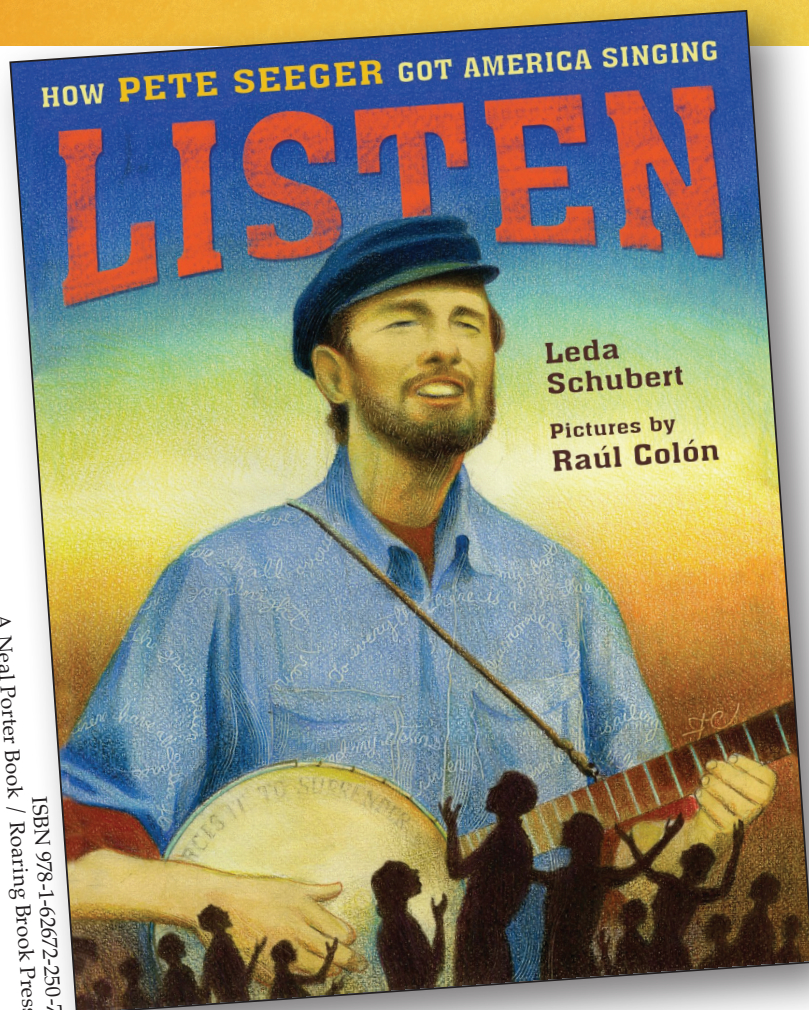
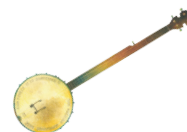


# CURRICULUM GUIDE



**“There was nobody like Pete Seeger. Wherever he went, he got people singing.”**



**S**O BEGINS this gorgeously written and illustrated tribute to the legendary musician and activist. Award-winning author Leda Schubert highlights major musical events in Pete Seeger’s life, as well as important moments in his decades-long fight against social injustice.

From singing sold-out concerts to courageously standing against McCarthy-era finger pointing,

Pete Seeger’s inspiring life and an important period of American history are brought to vivid detail for young readers in this bold picture book biography of an American icon.

★ “Schubert and Colón capture with affection and respect Seeger’s remarkable lifetime of speaking truth to power through music and engaging the hearts of his audiences.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

“This inspiring picture book biography about one of America’s greatest folk heroes is sure to get a new generation of children singing. . . . Buy this book and sing your heart out!”

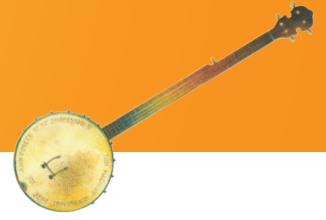
—*School Library Journal*

“The thorough back matter includes an author’s note, a detailed timeline, and well-chosen further reading and recordings. An inspiring and heartfelt tribute to, as Schubert calls him, a ‘true American hero.’” —*The Horn Book Magazine*

[ledaschubert.com](http://ledaschubert.com)

The Common Core State Standards addressed by the discussion questions and activities in this guide are noted throughout. For more information on the Common Core, visit [corestandards.org](http://corestandards.org).

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Unless otherwise noted, all discussion questions are aligned with

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.1

- ♪ What types of songs did singer Pete Seeger share with his audiences?
- ♪ Pete Seeger said, “Participation. That’s what’s gonna save the human race.” What do you think that means?
- ♪ Pete Seeger followed his own advice and participated in many causes throughout his life. Name some of the causes he supported.
- ♪ Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie performed across the country. What is unusual about the way they traveled?
- ♪ Pete Seeger joined the Almanac Singers and the Weavers. Which song by the Weavers became a number one hit?
- ♪ Pete Seeger found himself in trouble with the government at one point in his life. Which group questioned him? Why were they interested in him?
- ♪ What happened to Pete Seeger and his musical career as a result of his questioning by the government?
- ♪ “We Shall Overcome” is a powerful song of hope. For what cause did Pete Seeger first sing the song?
- ♪ How did Pete Seeger use his music and focus on participation to clean up the polluted Hudson River?
- ♪ Though Pete Seeger was well known, neither fame nor money was that important to him. What ordinary things did he do to fill his time when he was home along the Hudson River?



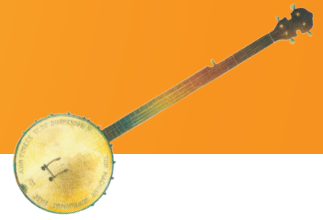
- ♪ Encourage students to study the illustrations in *Listen* paying particular attention to the drawings of people in the story. Discuss what the people’s actions and expressions tell you about Pete Seeger’s impact on those who listened to his music.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.7;  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.7

- ♪ Many view Pete Seeger as an American hero. Discuss why people might regard Seeger as an important figure in American history. Read aloud President Obama’s statement about Pete Seeger, made upon the musician’s death, found in the final timeline entry at the back of the book.



# ACTIVITIES



## Seeger Sing-Along!

Pete Seeger always invited the audience to join him and sing during his performances. Find recordings of Pete Seeger's songs for your class to learn. Visit [ledaschubert.com](http://ledaschubert.com) for links to recordings and videos. Invite another class to join yours for a Pete Seeger sing-along.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.10; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.10; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.10; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.10

## Visual Lyrics

Pete Seeger enjoyed singing songs to and with children. He received a Grammy Award for Best Musical Album for Children in 2010 for his album entitled *Tomorrow's Children*. One of his favorite songs to share with kids was "Froggie Went a-Courting." Look up the lyrics to this song and share them with your class. Have students create a three-paneled comic strip that shows in color illustrations and speech bubbles what happened between Froggie and Miss Mousie in the song.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3

## Pete Seeger, Activist

Pete Seeger devoted his life to music and the fight for justice, peace, equality, and a cleaner environment. If Seeger were alive today, what causes do your students think he would support with his music? Why is this current cause important, in each student's opinion? Have each student write a persuasive paragraph stating his/her opinion and citing reasons and examples to support it.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1

## Sharing Information

The banjo fascinated Pete Seeger. Early in his life he wrote a letter to his mother asking her advice about purchasing one. Later, Seeger was impressed when he heard Bascom Lamar Lunsford play the five-string banjo at the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival. Pete Seeger took this early interest in the banjo and his experiences playing the instrument and wrote a book called *How to Play the Five-String Banjo*. Invite your students to think of a topic that interests them as much as the banjo interested Seeger. Have each student gather information about his/her topic and then organize it into an informational book that might include a "how to" section. Share your informational books as a class.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.7; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.7

## Living Legends



In 2000, Pete Seeger was named a Living Legend by the Library of Congress. Invite students to select a Living Legend from the list of recipients on the Library of Congress's website: <https://www.loc.gov/about/awards-and-honors/living-legends/> Have students research their Living Legend and present a synopsis of their Legend's accomplishments to the class.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2;  
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.2

The discussion questions and activities in this guide were created by Leigh Courtney, Ph.D. She teaches in the Global Education program at a public elementary school in San Diego, California. She holds both masters' and doctoral degrees in education, with an emphasis on curriculum and instruction.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

# CAUSE AND EFFECT



Use information about Pete Seeger's life as described in *Listen* and the timeline at the end of the book to show how events in his life were linked. Think of how one event (the cause) led to another event (the effect). Find three cause/effect links and record your findings below.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3

**CAUSE**

**EFFECT**

**CAUSE**

**EFFECT**

**CAUSE**

**EFFECT**

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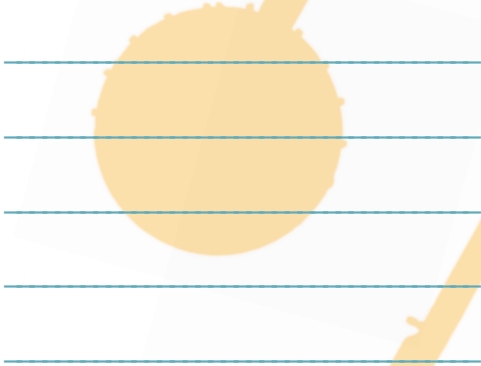
# ALL ABOUT PETE SEEGER

Use information from *Listen* and your own opinions to complete this All About worksheet.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.2.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.1;

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.1; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1

**List 3 facts everyone should know about Pete Seeger.**



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**What do you like about Pete Seeger?**



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**How did Pete Seeger treat others?**



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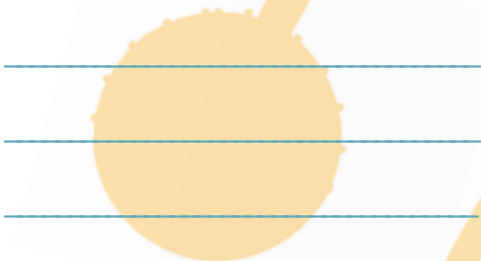
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**List 3 adjectives that describe Pete Seeger.**



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**Tell why Pete Seeger became famous.**



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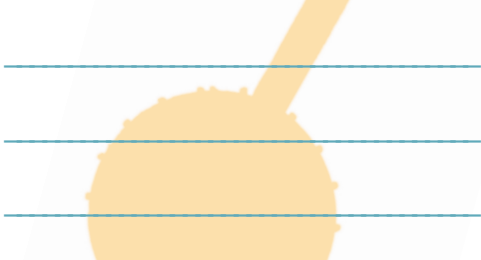
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**How did Pete Seeger change other people's lives?**



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**If you could meet Pete Seeger, what questions would you ask him?**



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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

# A GLOSSARY FOR *LISTEN*

Words were important to Pete Seeger. The songs he sang contained powerful ideas and words that entertained and educated people. The following words from *Listen* capture ideas that were key to the life and music of Pete Seeger. Use this list of words to create a glossary for *Listen*. Write the words in alphabetical order, create a definition for each, and write a meaningful sentence using each word.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.4; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.4; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.4; CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.4

**participation • justice • courage • racism • equality • peace • rallies • wars • unions**

WORD	DEFINITION
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