

## Writing Activity: Yankee Doodle

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I am currently working on a new manuscript about the history of this song and the different protest and patriotic verses that have been sung written throughout our country's history. Below are a couple of examples.

Original Song:

*Yankee Doodle went to town  
A-riding on a pony  
Stuck a feather in his cap  
And called it macaroni.*

CHORUS:  
*Yankee Doodle keep it up,  
Yankee Doodle Dandy.  
Mind the music and the step  
And with the girls be handy.*

Examples below feature the women's fight to win the vote and the 1965 voting rights march.

*Yankee Doodle's wife and girls  
Shall have his full protection  
Shall share his car and holidays  
And vote at his elections.*

*Wallace said we couldn't march  
We knew he was a phony  
Now we're marching all the way  
To make him eat baloney.*

Yankee Doodle keep it up  
Our brothers shall not flout us  
Mind the music, keep the step  
They shall not vote without us!

Freedom fighters keep it up,  
Even though you're weary.  
Freedom fighters keep it up,  
We love our Freedom dearly.

### WRITING ACTIVITIES:

- Write a new Yankee Doodle verse for a cause you believe in.
- Write a story in which characters from history or today sing a new version of Yankee Doodle – comic or serious.

### STEPS TO TAKE:

1. Pick a topic.
2. Write down five facts about it.
3. Pick some rhyming words from the list above and add to it.
4. Follow the rhyming pattern. Notice how sometimes words or phrases are repeated. Consider trying that in your version.