Rangeland Investigations Worksheet 1
Home on the Range Song Lyrics

About this song

Home on the Range appears to have been written in 1885 by C.O. Swartz, Bill McCabe, Bingham Graves and other prospectors in a cabin near Leadville, Colorado. It was popular all over the Southwest through the 1880's and 1890's, then disappeared until being revived about 1932. Today it is recognized as Kansas' state song.

1st Verse
Oh, give me a home, where the buffalo roam,
Where the deer and the antelope play,
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word,
And the skies are not cloudy all day.

Chorus
Home, home on the range,
Where the deer and the antelope play,
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word,
And the skies are not cloudy all day.

2nd Verse
Where the air is so pure, the zephyrs* so free,
The breezes so balmy and light,
That I would not exchange my home on the range
For all the cities so bright.

Chorus

3rd Verse
Oh, give me a land where the bright diamond sand
Flows leisurely down the stream,
Where the graceful white swan goes gliding along
Like a maid in a heavenly dream.

Chorus

4th Verse
The red man was pressed from this part of the West,
He's likely no more to return
To the banks of Red River where seldom if ever
Their flickering campfires burn.

Chorus

5th Verse
How often at night when the heavens are bright
With the light of the glittering stars,
Have I stood here amazed and asked as I gazed
If their glory exceeds that of ours.

Chorus

6th Verse
Oh, I love these wild flowers in this dear land of ours;
The curlew* I love to hear scream;
And I love the white rocks and the antelope flocks
That graze on the mountain-tops green.

Chorus

7th Verse
Then I would not exchange my home on the range,
Where the deer and the antelope play;
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word
And the skies are not cloudy all day.

Chorus

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*Definitions
Zephyrs- the West wind, a gentle breeze
Curlew- a large brownish wading bird with long legs