WOODY GUTHRIE

Have you ever heard a song called “This Land is Your Land?” If you have, you have heard what many people wanted for our national anthem! That song was written by an Oklahoman, named Woody Guthrie.

Woody’s family lived in Okemah during hard times for our country and state. Many people could not find work, but not Woody. He was a very talented musician. He joined a country music band. They went to California where they sang on many radio shows. Woody wrote all of the songs himself.

His music was about the people he knew back in Oklahoma. He also sang about the people out of work and hungry across the country. One of his songs was about our nation’s land. It tells about how it was made for everyone to enjoy. It is called “This Land is Your Land.” When our First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt heard the song, she thought it was so good that it should become our national anthem.

If you have a chance, listen to the song. Better yet, read some of the lyrics below.

“This land is your land. This land is my land. From California to the New York Island. From the Redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters, This land was made for you and me.”

1. What was Woody Guthrie’s music about?

2. When Woody Guthrie wrote his songs, what were times like for many in America?

3. If you wrote a song today, what would it be about?