

Name _____



Songs Of The Dream

Directions: Read the brief lyric summaries below. Then answer the questions that follow each one, explaining how the artist's message connects to the idea of the American Dream.

1. "This Land Is Your Land" - Woody Guthrie (1940s)

This folk song describes the wide and beautiful landscapes of America and suggests that the nation's freedom and opportunities should belong to everyone, not just a few.

- What idea of the American Dream does this song support? How does the song show a desire for equality?

2. "Born in the U.S.A." - Bruce Springsteen (1980s)

This rock song tells the story of a working-class American who faces hardships after serving his country. Instead of celebrating success, it points out struggles that make achieving the Dream difficult for many.

- How does this song show that the American Dream is not easy to achieve? Why might the artist want listeners to notice these difficulties?

3. "Empire State of Mind" - Jay-Z & Alicia Keys (2009)

This modern song praises New York City as a place filled with energy, ambition, and big opportunities where people come to chase their dreams and achieve greatness.

- What message does the song give about opportunity in America? How does the song express hope and confidence in reaching the Dream?
