

# John Henry traditional

John Henry

Amerikanisches Volkslied

When John Henry was a little ba-by, a - sit-tin' on his pa-pa's knee, he  
picked up a hammer and a little piece of steel and he said, "ham-mer's gonna be the death of  
me, Lord, Lord" and he said, "ham-mer's gon-na be the death of me."

When John Henry was a little baby, asittin' on his papa's knee,  
he picked up a hammer and a little piece of steel  
and he said, "hammer's gonna be the death of me,  
Lord, Lord"  
and he said, "hammer's gonna be the death of me."

Some say he's born in Texas. Some say he's born  
up in Maine.  
I just say he was a Louisiana man.  
Leader of a steel-driving chain gang.  
Leader on a steel-driving gang.

Well, the Captain said to John Henry  
"I'm gonna bring my steam drill around  
Gonna bring my steam drill out on the job.  
Gonna whup that steel on down, down, down  
Whup that steel on down"

John Henry said to the Captain:  
"You can bring your steam drill around.  
You can bring your steam drill out on the job  
I'll beat your steam drill down, down, down,  
Beat your steam drill down".

John Henry said to his Shaker  
"Shaker, you had better pray  
If you miss your six feet of steel  
It'll be your buryin' day, day, day,  
It'll be your buryin' day".

Now, the Shaker said to John Henry  
"Man ain't nothing but a man.  
But before I'd let that steam drill beat me down  
I'd die with an hammer in my hand, hand, hand,  
I'd die with an hammer in my hand".

John Henry had a little woman,  
Her name was Polly Ann.  
John Henry took sick and was laid up in bed  
While Polly drove steel like a man, man, man.  
Polly drove steel like a man.

They took John Henry to the graveyard  
Laid him down in the sand  
Every locomotive comin' a-rolling by hollered,  
there lies a steel-drivin' man, man, man .  
There lies a steel-drivin' man

There lies a steel-drivin' man, man, man .  
There lies a steel-drivin' man.