

The Drover's Dream

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Source: Australian Folk Song

5 One night when trav - 'ling sheep My com - pan - ions lay a - sleep, There was

9 not a star to " " " " " " " " " " I was

13 dream - ing I sup - p

17 ve - ry strange pro - ces - sion passed me by. First there

21 came a kan - ga - roo with his swag of blan - kets blue A

25 din - go ran be - side him for a mate They were

29 trav - 'ling migh - ty fast and they shou - ted as they passed, 'We'll

have to jog a - long, it's get - ting late!

The Drover's Dream

Theme: Australian

Games:

Partner: Aussie Animals

Form:

Song Type:

Scale: Major

CSP: B - C

Age: Middle Primary - Middle Secondary

Tones: s l t **d** r m f s

Rhythm: ♩ . ♩ ♩ ♪ ♫ tie

Melodic: s₁ d ; d r m ; m r d ; d s₁ ; s₁ l₁ t₁ d ; d l₁ s₁ ; d t₁ d r ; r s₁ ; m d ; r t₁ @ ; m f
s : s m d

Prep: Major, f t,

Prac: Major, tie, f t,

The Drover's Dream

1. One night when trav'ling sheep, my companions lay asleep,
There was not a star to 'luminare the sky,
I was dreaming I suppose, for my eyes were nearly closed,
When a very strange procession passed me by.
2. First there came a kangaroo, with his swag of blankets blue,
A dingo ran beside him for a mate,
They were trav'ling mighty fast and they shouted as they passed,
'We'll have to jog along, it's getting late!'
3. The pelican and the crane, they came in from off the plain,
To amuse the company with a Highland Fling!
The dear old bandicoot played a tune upon his flute,
And the native bears sat round them in a ring.
4. The drongo and the crow sang us songs of long ago,
While the frill-necked lizard listened with a smile,
And the emu standing near with his claw up to his ear
Said, 'Funniest thing I've heard for quite a while!'
5. The frogs from out the swamp, where the atmosphere is damp,
Came bounding in and sat upon the stones;
They each unrolled their swags and produced from out their bags
The violin, the banjo and the bones.
6. The goanna and the snake, and the adder wide awake,
With the alligator danced, 'The Soldier's Joy';
In the spreading silky oak and the jackass cracked a joke,
And the magpie sang, 'The Wild Colonial Boy'.
7. Some brolgas darted out from the tea-tree all about
And performed a set of Lancers very well,
Then the parrot green and blue gave the orchestra its cue
To strike up, 'The Old Log Cabin in the Dell'.
8. I was dreaming, I suppose, of these entertaining shows,
But it never crossed my mind I was asleep,
Till the Boss beneath the cart woke me up with such a start,
Saying 'Dreamy, where the hell* are all the sheep?'

You can substitute the words 'on earth' for 'the hell' if desired.

The Drover's Dream

History:

A drover would move herds of cattle or flocks of sheep large distances either to be sold or in search of fertile grazing land or water. The life of a drover was a tough one. They would spend months on the move, leaving loved ones at home usually without any way of communicating with them until their return.

There is a tale that is told of a young drover who fell asleep when it was his turn to watch the sheep one night. By the time he woke up, the sheep were gone and his friends already had the horses ready to go to search for them. The boss leaned over him with a smile and is reported to have said: "Don't bother to get up, son. Your cheque's in your boot!"

Glossary:

Drover: Someone who moves a herd of cattle or flock of sheep from one place to another. Drovers would sometimes be on the road for months at a time.

Kangaroo, dingo and bandicoot: Native Australian animals.

Swag: A blanket roll - often blue which led to them also being called 'blueys'.

Pelican, crane, drongo, crow, magpie, brolga, parrot, : Birds found in Australia.

Emu: A native Australian bird.

Plain: A large, flat area of land.

Highland Fling: A Scottish dance.

Native Bears: Another name for 'koala' - a native Australian animal.

Frill-neck lizard: A type of lizard found in Australia.

Bones: Two bones probably played like musical claves.

Goanna: Native Australian lizard.

Adder: A type of snake.

Alligator: Alligators live in America and China. The animal in the song would more accurately be called a 'crocodile'.

'The Soldier's Joy' and 'The Old Log Cabin in the Dell': Traditional American Songs.

Jackass: A nick name for the native Australian bird, the kookaburra. The kookaburra is known for its distinctive call which sounds very much like a loud, raucous laugh.

The Wild Colonial Boy: Traditional Australian Song.

Lancers: A kind of quadrille dance.