

# Resource 5.

## *Sea Shanty*

Sea shanties are a part of the great genre of work songs. Sailors used the rhythm of the songs to keep together when rowing, hauling up sails, and doing other cooperative work. They also enjoyed music during their downtime. The word “shanty” comes from the French “chanter,” to sing.

Sea shanties typically have a call and response format. The leader will sing a line, and the rest of the sailors will answer. The leader might make up new verses referring to current events or shared experiences. The response is always the same, though, so the sailors can concentrate on their work.

### ***Blow the Man Down***

*I'll sing you a song, a good song of the sea  
With a way, hey, blow the man down  
And trust that you'll join in the chorus with me  
Give me some time to blow the man down*

*There was an old skipper I don't know his name  
With a way, hey, blow the man down  
Although he once played a remarkable game  
Give me some time to blow the man down*

*His ship lay be-calmed in the tropical sea  
With a way, hey, blow the man down  
He whistled all day but in vain for a breeze  
Give me some time to blow the man down.*

#### **Hear the tune:**

<https://kids.niehs.nih.gov/games/songs/childrens/blow-the-man-down/>