

# The Bear Went Over the Mountain

Informant/Performer:  
Mrs. L.A. Angell  
New Berlin, NY

Source:  
Lynn Rohrbaugh  
*Handy Play Party Book*, revised by Cecilia Riddell  
Burnsville, NC: World Around Songs, Inc., 1982

♩ = 100

Oh, the bear went o - ver the moun - tain, the bear went o - ver the moun - tain,  
The bear went o - ver the moun - tain to see what he could see.  
To see what he could see, To see what he could see  
Oh, the bear went o - ver the moun - tain to see what he could see.

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 6/8. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the verse, the second and third staves contain the chorus, and the fourth staff contains the second line of the verse. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 100.

2. Oh, the other side of the mountain, the other side of the mountain,  
The other side of the mountain was all that he could see.  
But all that he could see, was all that he could see.  
Oh the other side of the mountain was all that he could see.

## Game Directions

Formation:

Double circle of partners, inside arms linked. Faced for marching counter-clockwise, men on the inside.

Action:

- (1) Promenade: During the singing of the first verse, walk around in a circle.  
(2) Grand right and left: On the chorus "To see what he could see," partners join hands and pass each other by right shoulders, men moving counter-clockwise, ladies clockwise. Continue in same direction, alternately taking left and right hands, weaving in and out, until the end of the chorus, upon which they all take new partners and promenade again as they sing "The other side of the mountain." Grand right and left on the chorus as before.

## Background Information

"This tune is one of the oldest melodies known and is said to have been sung by the Crusaders under Godefroy de Bouillon during the latter part of the eleventh century. It is familiar as a march and dance tune, and is one of the most widely sung."

Eloise Hubbard Linscott, *Folk Songs of Old New England*