STORYLAND CLASSICS

FREE PRINTABLE ACTIVITY PACK

Old King Cole

A traditional Mother Goose nursery rhyme



For ages 4–8 ✦ Pre-K through 2nd grade

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✦ THE RHYME ✦

Old King Cole

A jolly Mother Goose rhyme about a happy king who loved music



Old King Cole was a merry old soul,
And a merry old soul was he;
He called for his pipe, and he called for his bowl,
And he called for his fiddlers three.

Every fiddler had a fiddle,
And a very fine fiddle had he;
Oh, there's none so rare as can compare
With King Cole and his fiddlers three.

Listen along. Scan to watch the Storyland Classics read-aloud, or visit *storylandclassics.com/kingcole*. Say the rhyme together until children can join in on every line.

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What kind of king was Old King Cole? (*Merry* means happy and jolly.)
2. What did the king call for?
3. How many fiddlers came? What did each one have?
4. If you were a king or queen, what would you call for?

ACT IT OUT

Choose a king or queen to sit on a "throne." Three fiddlers play pretend fiddles while everyone else claps the beat. Let the king call out, "Bring me my fiddlers three!"

> **Rhyme tip:** Hold up three fingers each time you say "fiddlers three," and play an air fiddle on "every fiddler had a fiddle."

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✦ COLOR IT ✦

The Merry Old King

Color Old King Cole on his throne, his bowl and stool, and the three fiddlers playing for him.



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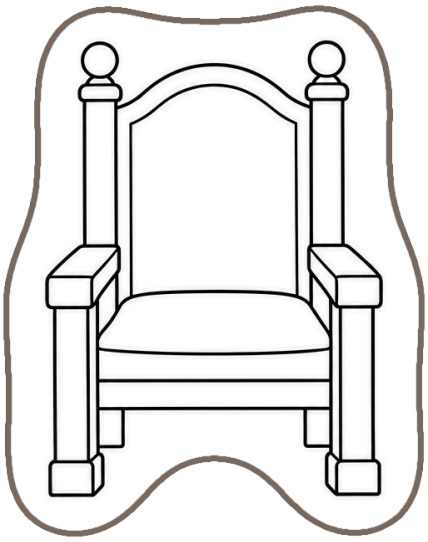
✦ CUT & PASTE CRAFT ✦

The King's Music

Color the pieces and cut them out. Then paste them in the royal hall on the next page.



Old King Cole



Throne



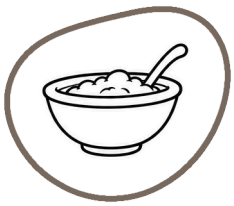
Fiddler



Fiddler



Fiddler



Bowl



Stool

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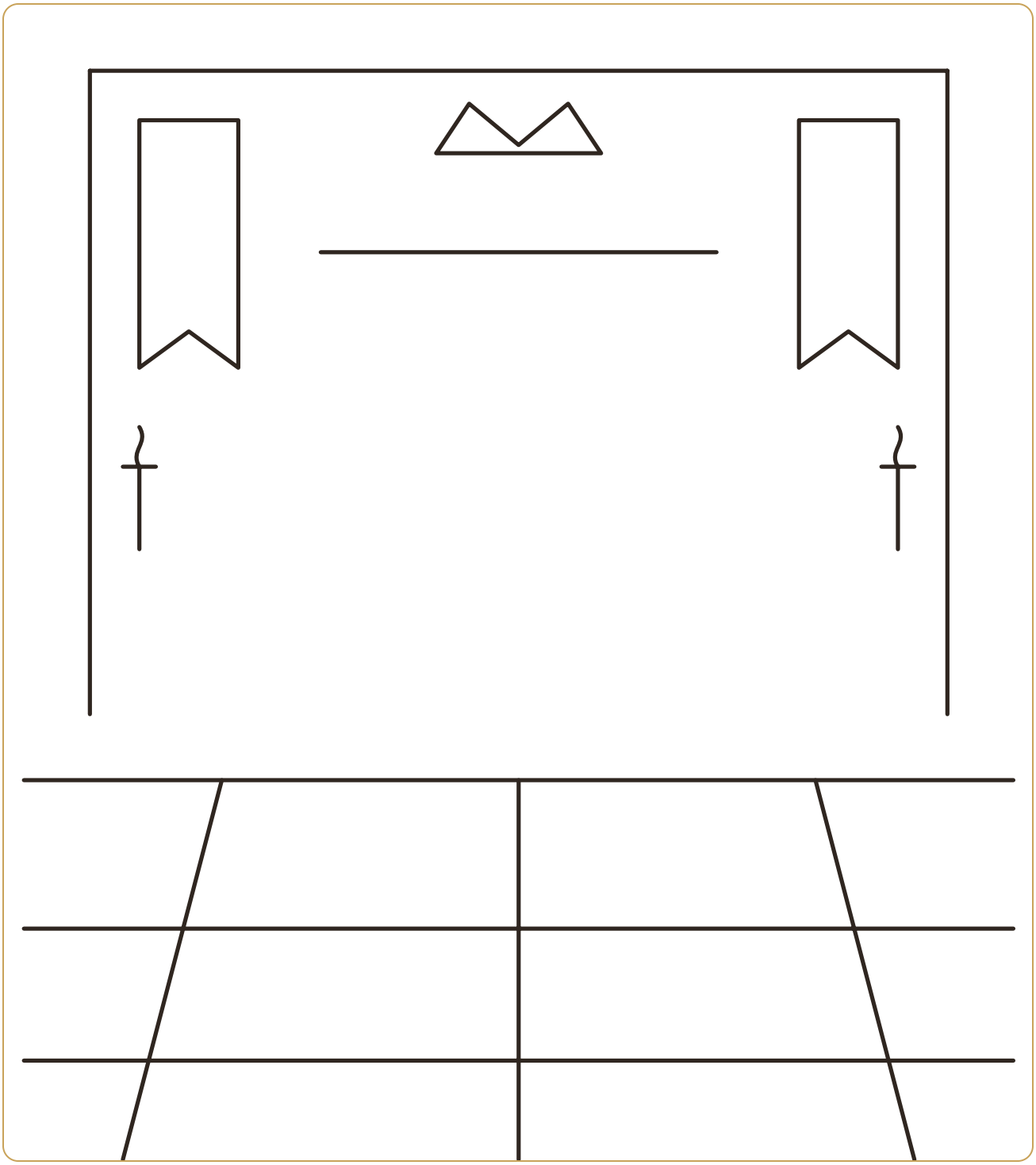
✦ CUT & PASTE CRAFT ✦

The Royal Hall

*Paste the throne in the **middle** and the king **on** it. Put the stool **beside** the throne and the bowl **on** the stool. Line up the three fiddlers **in front of** the king.*



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✦ READING FUN ✦

Put the Rhyme in Order

Cut out the four lines. Say the rhyme, then paste each line in the right box.

1

2

3

4

✂ - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - cut on the dotted lines - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -



And he called for his fiddlers three.



Old King Cole was a merry old soul,



Every fiddler had a fiddle,



He called for his bowl,

Need a hint? The picture on each strip matches that line.

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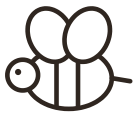
✦ RHYME TIME ✦

Words That Rhyme

Rhyming words sound the same at the end, like Cole, soul and bowl.

1. These words are from the rhyme. Draw a line from each word to the picture that rhymes with it. *(Grown-ups: read the words aloud.)*

bowl	 bee
three	 ring
he	 roll
king	 tree

2. Circle the words that rhyme with *bowl*.

Cole king soul hole fiddle goal

3. Finish the rhyme. Write a word from the box on each line.

soul he bowl three

Old King Cole was a merry old _____ ,

And a merry old soul was _____ ;

He called for his _____ ,

And he called for his fiddlers _____ .

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✦ LISTEN & COUNT ✦

Count the Words

Words are the pieces of what we say. How many words can you hear?

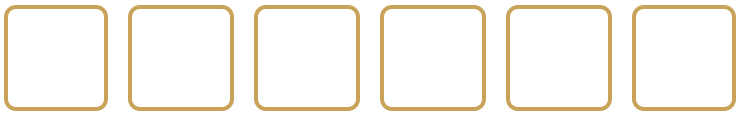
Say each one out loud. Clap once for every word. Color one box for each clap, then write how many words you heard.

Old King Cole



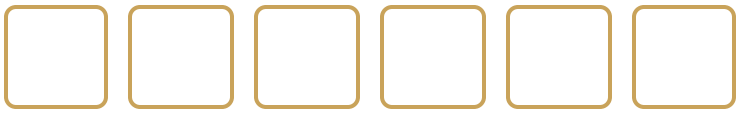
= ___ words

a merry old soul



= ___ words

He called for his bowl.



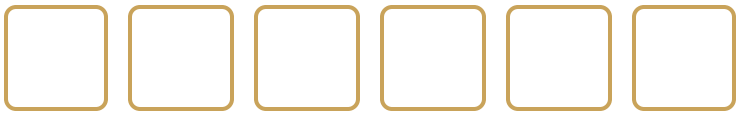
= ___ words

fiddlers three



= ___ words

Every fiddler had a fiddle.



= ___ words

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✦ READY TO WRITE ✦

Pencil Warm-Ups

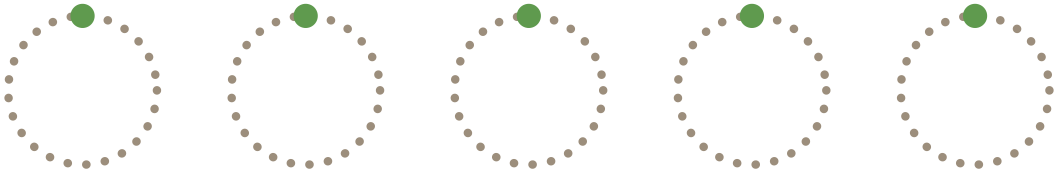
Hold your pencil with a pinch grip: thumb and pointer finger pinch, middle finger underneath.

Start at the **green dot**. Trace each dotted line with your pencil. Go from left to right, and from top to bottom.

FIDDLE STRINGS: STRAIGHT DOWN



ROUND BOWLS: ROUND AND ROUND



HAPPY MUSIC: WAVY LINES



ROYAL CROWNS: ZIG AND ZAG



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✦ HANDWRITING ✦

Trace & Write

Practice writing words from the rhyme. Start at the top line and go down.

1. Trace over the gray letters. Then write the word on your own in the space beside it.

king

bowl

three

fiddle

2. Copy the line from the rhyme in your best handwriting.

Old King Cole was a merry old soul,

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✦ PUZZLE TIME ✦

Word Search

Find the words from the rhyme. Words go across and down. Check off each word when you find it.

M	E	R	R	Y	L	U	W	D	F
F	Y	M	L	M	W	K	I	N	G
J	T	H	R	E	E	H	D	F	C
F	O	M	F	B	S	O	U	L	T
H	O	T	F	V	A	M	S	T	N
H	M	H	H	C	R	O	W	N	F
U	U	R	F	I	D	D	L	E	C
R	S	O	O	S	B	C	O	L	E
J	I	N	B	I	J	B	O	H	F
N	C	E	C	B	O	W	L	L	Y

☆ ☆ ☆

☐ King ☐ Cole ☐ Merry ☐ Soul ☐ Bowl

☐ Fiddle ☐ Three ☐ Crown ☐ Music ☐ Throne

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✦ FOR GROWN-UPS ✦

Answer Key

TALK ABOUT IT

1. Merry: happy and jolly.
2. His pipe, his bowl and his fiddlers three.
3. Three. Each one had a fiddle.
4. Answers will vary.

PUT THE RHYME IN ORDER

1. Old King Cole was a merry old soul,
2. He called for his bowl,
3. And he called for his fiddlers three.
4. Every fiddler had a fiddle,

These strips are four lines from the first half of the rhyme.

RHYME TIME

1. bowl – roll, three – tree, he – bee, king – ring
2. Cole, soul, hole, goal
3. soul, he, bowl, three

COUNT THE WORDS

Old King Cole = 3, a merry old soul = 4, He called for his bowl. = 5, fiddlers three = 2, Every fiddler had a fiddle. = 5

WORD SEARCH

M	E	R	R	Y	L	U	W	D	F
F	Y	M	L	M	W	K	I	N	G
J	T	H	R	E	E	H	D	F	C
F	O	M	F	B	S	O	U	L	T
H	O	T	F	V	A	M	S	T	N
H	M	H	H	C	R	O	W	N	F
U	U	R	F	I	D	D	L	E	C
R	S	O	O	S	B	C	O	L	E
J	I	N	B	I	J	B	O	H	F
N	C	E	C	B	O	W	L	L	Y

BRING THE RHYME HOME

Watch the read-aloud at *storylandclassics.com/kingcole*, and find more nursery rhymes, stories, poems and free guides at **storylandclassics.com**.

Extend the fun: make paper crowns and take turns being king or queen, count out groups of three around the house, or listen to fiddle (violin) music and dance.

Love this free pack? Please subscribe to our YouTube channel **@StorylandClassics** to help us keep making them free for everyone! Scan the code or visit *storylandclassics.com/youtube*.

KINDERGARTEN SKILLS IN THIS PACK

- **Listening & rhyme:** recognize rhyming words; count the words in a phrase (CCSS RF.K.2, RF.K.2a)
- **Print concepts:** left-to-right, top-to-bottom tracking; put the rhyme's lines in order (RF.K.1a)
- **Pre-writing & handwriting:** pinch grip, lines, circles and diagonals, tracing and copying letters (L.K.1a)
- **Position words:** left, right, next to, in front of in the craft directions (L.K.1e)
- **Speaking & listening:** talk-about-it questions after the read-aloud (SL.K.2, RL.K.10)

These activities support kindergarten skills like those practiced in CKLA Kindergarten Skills Unit 1. Storyland Classics is not affiliated with Amplify or the Core Knowledge Foundation.

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