

Hickory Dickory Dock

HICKORY DICKORY DOCK THE MOUSE RAN UP THE CLOCK

THE CLOCK STRUCK ONE THE MOUSE RAN DOWN HICKORY

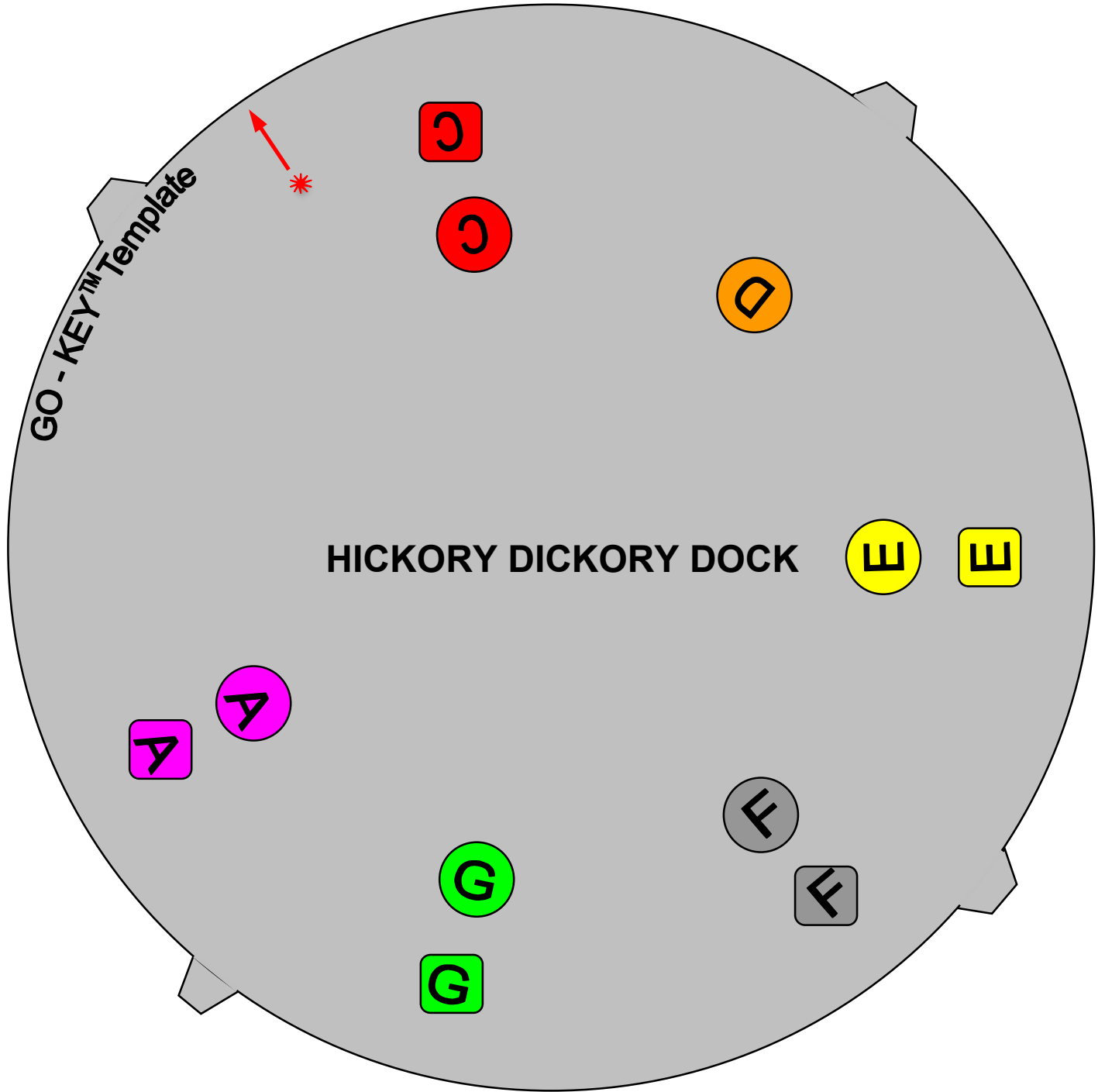
DICKORY DOCK

Lyrics

Hickory, dickory, dock.
 The mouse ran up the clock.
 The clock struck one,
 The mouse ran down,
 Hickory, dickory, dock.

Other variants include "down the mouse ran" or "down the mouse run" or "and down he ran" or "and down he run" in place of "the mouse ran down".

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History and Origin

"Hickory Dickory Dock" or "Hickety Dicky Dock" is a popular English nursery rhyme. It has a Roud Folk Song Index number of 6489.

The earliest recorded version of the rhyme is in Tommy Thumb's *Pretty Song Book*, published in London in about 1744, which uses the opening line: 'Hickere, Dickere Dock'. The next recorded version in *Mother Goose's Melody* (c. 1765), uses 'Dickery, Dickery Dock'.

The rhyme is thought by some commentators to have originated as a counting-out rhyme. Westmorland shepherds in the nineteenth century used the numbers Hevera (8), Devera (9) and Dick (10).

The rhyme is thought to have been based on the astronomical clock at Exeter Cathedral. The clock has a small hole in the door below the face for the resident cat to hunt mice.