

SNOW

## Lyrics

**Mary had a little lamb**, little lamb, little lamb  
 Mary had a little lamb  
 Whose fleece was white as snow.

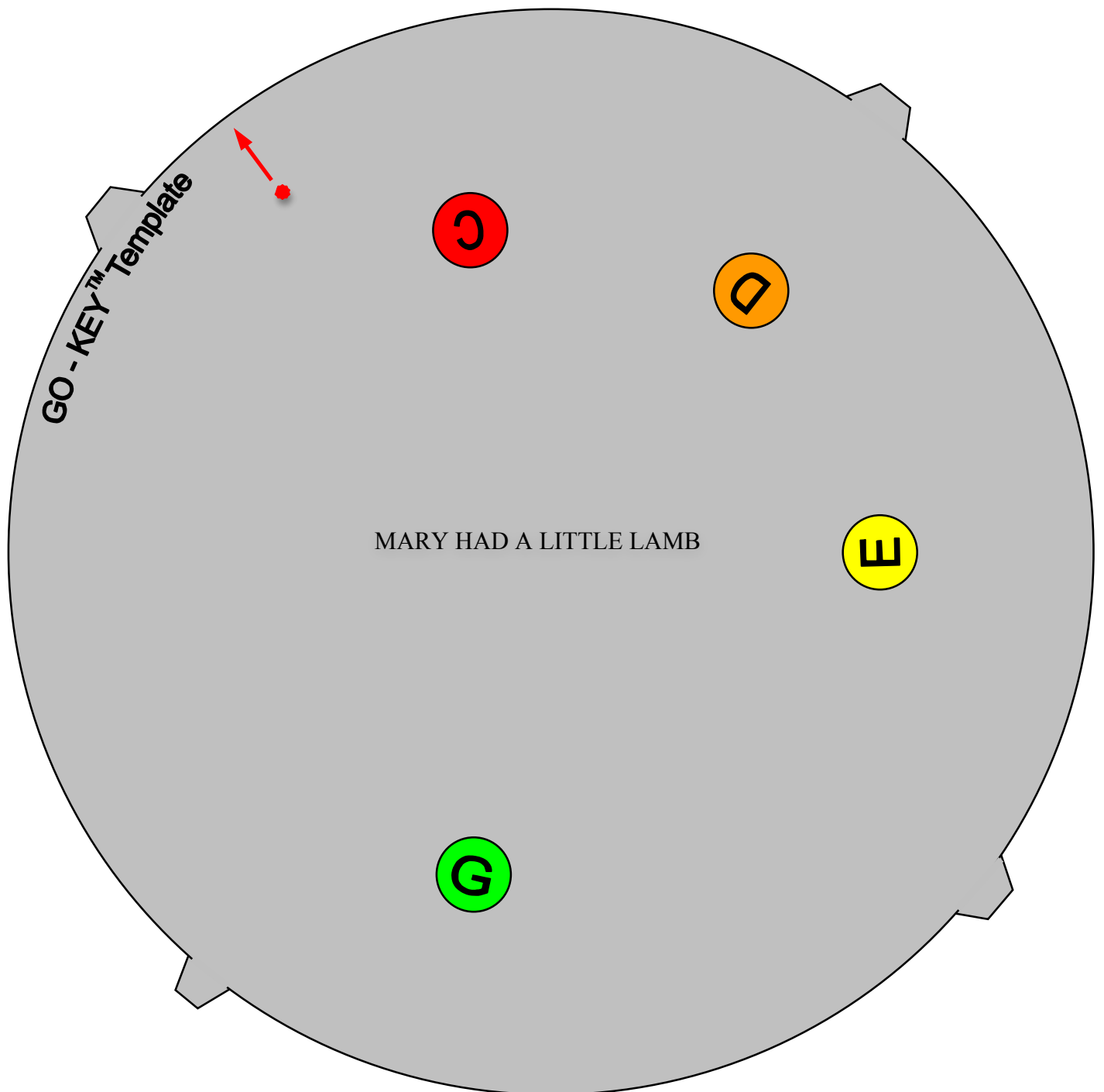
And everywhere that Mary went  
 Mary went, Mary went,  
 Everywhere that Mary went  
 The lamb was sure to go.

He followed her to school one day, school one day, school one day  
 He followed her to school one day  
 Which was against the rules.

It made the children laugh and play,  
 laugh and play, laugh and play,  
 It made the children laugh and play,  
 To see a lamb at school.

And so the teacher turned it out,  
 turned it out, turned it out,  
 And so the teacher turned it out,  
 But still it lingered near,  
 He waited patiently about,  
 patiently about, patiently about,  
 He waited patiently about,  
 Till Mary did appear.

"Why does the lamb love Mary so?"  
 love Mary so?" love Mary so?"  
 "Why does the lamb love Mary so?"  
 The eager children cried.  
 "Why, Mary loves the lamb, you know,"  
 lamb, you know," lamb, you know,"  
 "Why, Mary loves the lamb, you know,"  
 The teacher did reply.



## History and Origin

**"Mary Had a Little Lamb"** is an English language nursery rhyme of nineteenth-century American origin.

The Redstone School (1798), now in Sudbury, Massachusetts, is believed to be the schoolhouse mentioned in the nursery rhyme. The nursery rhyme was first published by the Boston publishing firm Marsh, Capen & Lyon, as a poem by Sarah Josepha Hale on May 24, 1830, and was possibly inspired by an actual incident. In the 1830s, Lowell Mason set the nursery rhyme to a melody adding repetition in the verses. There are competing theories on the origin and inspiration of this poem. One holds that John Roulstone wrote the first four lines and that the final twelve lines, less childlike than the first, were composed by Sarah Josepha Hale; others claim that Hale was responsible for the entire poem.

As a young girl, Mary Sawyer (later Mary Tyler) kept a pet lamb that she took to school one day at the suggestion of her brother. A commotion naturally ensued. Mary recalled: "Visiting school that morning was a young man by the name of John Roulstone, a nephew of the Reverend Lemuel Capen, who was then settled in Sterling. It was the custom then for students to prepare for college with ministers, and for this purpose Roulstone was studying with his uncle. The young man was very much pleased with the incident of the lamb; and the next day he rode across the fields on horseback to the little old schoolhouse and handed me a slip of paper which had written upon it the three original stanzas of the poem ..."

Mary Sawyer's house, located in Sterling, Massachusetts, was destroyed by arson on August 12, 2007. A statue representing Mary's Little Lamb stands in the town center. The Redstone School, which was built in 1798, was purchased by Henry Ford and relocated to a churchyard on the property of Longfellow's Wayside Inn in Sudbury, Massachusetts. The rhyme was the first audio recorded by Thomas Edison on his newly invented phonograph in 1877. It was the first instance of recorded verse. In 1927, Edison reenacted the recording, which still survives. The earliest recording (1878) was retrieved by 3D imaging equipment in 2012.

Blues musicians Buddy Guy and Stevie Ray Vaughan both recorded the song: Guy composing his own bluesy version of the song for his album *A Man and the Blues* in 1968 and Vaughan covering Guy's version in his 1983 debut album, *Texas Flood*, with both also incorporating the first four lines of the nursery rhyme, "A-Tisket, A-Tasket", into the song.

In 1972, Paul McCartney released a version of the song. Just as he had done with the 16th-century poem *Golden Slumbers* which was released on *The Beatles' Abbey Road LP* in 1969, he added his own melody to the lyrics. Following the lukewarm sales of his recent album and the major controversy surrounding his previous single "Give Ireland Back To The Irish" which was banned by most media outlets, including the BBC, the single returned him to the top 10 of the UK charts, ahead of major two selling albums "Red Rose Speedway" and "Band On The Run." McCartney included "Mary had a little lamb" as a bonus feature on the 2018 CD reissue of the former, as well as a box set that same year. It had also been available earlier on the 1993 CD issue of the *Wild Life* album. McCartney had also played the song during Wings' 1972 summer tour and it was included in the Spring 1973 James Paul McCartney television special.

The first Korean musical road, created using grooves cut into the ground and intended to help motorists stay alert and awake (68% of traffic accidents in South Korea are due to inattentive, sleeping or speeding drivers.) play "Mary Had a Little Lamb" and took four days to construct. It can be found close to Anyang, Gyeonggi, South Korea.

### Other Uses:

- Kidsongs: A Day at Old MacDonald's Farm
- Wee Sing: Nursery Rhymes and Lullabies
- Wee Sing: King Cole's Party
- Wee Sing: Nursery Rhymes
- Barney episodes and videos
- Richard Scarry's Best Sing-Along Mother Goose Ever
- Blue's Clues episode "Tickety's Favorite Nursery Rhyme"
- Teletubbies episode "Mary Had a Little Lamb"
- Rock 'N Learn: Nursery Rhymes
- Sesame Street: "Kids' Favorite Songs 2 (DVD and CD Soundtrack)"
- The Wiggles: Pop Go The Wiggles!
- The song "Mary Had a Little Boy" from the debut 1990 album *World Power* by Snap!