

CONCEPT  
BACKGROUND  
ILLS  
LISTEN  
IES

The One... the 1800s. It helped en... North. "Follow the Drinkin' Gourd" is... enslaved people to follow the Big Dipper (drinking gourd) constellation. From this constellation they could find the North Star, which pointed north.

# HOW TO FOLLOW THE DRINKIN' GOURD

Traditional African American  
Adapted by Paul Campbell



Slowly, but rhythmically

Em mp G Am Em G Am Em

1. When the sun comes back and the first quail calls,  
2. Now the riv-er bank-'ll make a might-y good road;  
3. Now the riv - er ends be - tween two hills;

G Am C Em

Fol - low the Drink - in' Gourd. Then the  
dead trees - 'll show you the way. And the  
Fol - low the Drink - in' Gourd. And

G D/F# Em C

Old Man is a - wait - in' for to car - ry you to  
left foot, peg - foot, trav - el - in'  
there's an - oth - er riv - er on the oth - er

Bm G D Em D Bm D Em

free - dom, Fol - low the Drink - in' Gourd.  
on; just you fol - low the Drink - in' Gourd.  
side, just you fol - low the Drink - in' Gourd.

Play  
Gourd."

Follow the Drinkin'

Drink-in' gourd\_



**Refrain**

Fol - low\_\_\_\_\_ the Drink - in' Gourd, \_

Fol - low\_\_\_\_\_ the Drink - in' Gourd, \_

For the Old Man is a - wait - in' for to

car - ry you to free - dom, Fol - low the Drink - in' Gourd.