

Grandma's Feather Bed

(From the CD: "John Denver's Greatest Hits, Vol. Two")

(This is a circle dance routine that uses a few square dance skills. I got this idea from a workshop that I once attended in Kansas many years ago. I changed the routine to fit the needs of my students, but think the original idea came from Pug Parris, in Texas.)

The formation for this routine can be done in a large circle with partners standing next to each other, but I like to do it in smaller groups of four people (2 sets of partners).

Banjo introduction: wait 14 cts with students clapping to the music

Lyrics

When I was a little bitty boy just up off the floor
We used to go down to Grandmas house
Every month end or so
We had chicken pie and country ham
And homemade butter on the bread
But the best darn thing about Grandmas house
Was her great big feather bed

It was nine feet high and six feet wide
Soft as a downy chick
It was made from the feathers of forty-leven geese
Took a whole bolt of cloth for the tick
It'd hold eight kids and four hound dogs
And a piggy we stole from the shed
We didn't get much sleep but we had a lot of fun

On Grandmas feather bed

After the supper we'd sit around the fire
The old folks'd spit and chew
Pa would talk about the farm and the war
And Granny'd sing a ballad or two
I'd sit and listen and watch the fire
Till the cobwebs filled my head
Next thing I'd know I'd wake up in the morning
In the middle of the old feather bed

It was nine feet high and six feet wide
Soft as a downy chick
It was made from the feathers of forty-leven geese
Took a whole bolt of cloth for the tick
It'd hold eight kids n four hound dogs
And a piggy we stole from the shed
We didn't get much sleep but we had a lot of fun

On Grandmas feather bed

Actions

Join hands and circle left 8 cts
Hands joined, walk into circle 4 cts
Hands joined, walk backwards out of circle 4 cts
Join hands and circle right 8 cts

Hands joined, walk into circle 4 cts
Hands joined, walk backwards out of circle 4 cts

Face partner and walk in a right hand star 8 cts

Change direction with a left elbow swing 8 cts

Do si do with partner 8 cts

Face partner, slap own thighs 2 cts, clap own hands 2 cts

Hit partner hands 2 cts, clap own hands 2 cts

Join hands and circle left 8 cts

Hands joined, walk into circle 4 cts
Hands joined, walk backwards out of circle 4 cts
Join hands and circle right 8 cts

Hands joined, walk into circle 4 cts
Hands joined, walk backwards out of circle 4 cts

Face partner and walk in a right hand star 8 cts

Change direction with a left elbow swing 8 cts

Do si do with partner 8 cts

Face partner, slap own thighs 2 cts, clap own hands 2 cts

Hit partner hands 2 cts, clap own hands 2 cts

(Instrumental – clap 10 cts)

Well I love my Ma, I love my Pa
Love Granny and Grandpa too
Been fishing with my uncle, I wrestled with my cousin
I even kissed Aunt Lou, ooh

Join hands and circle left 8 cts

Hands joined, walk into circle 4 cts
Hands joined, walk backwards out of circle 4 cts
(everyone shouts "OOH")

But if ever had to make a choice
I guess it ought to be said
That I'd trade them all plus the gal down the road
For Grandmas feather bed

It was nine feet high and six feet wide
Soft as a downy chick
It was made from the feathers of forty-leven geese
Took a whole bolt of cloth for the tick
It'd hold eight kids and four hound dogs
And a piggy we stole from the shed
We didn't get much sleep but we had a lot of fun

On Grandma's feather bed

Didn't get much sleep but we had a lot of fun

Instrumental Banjo

Join hands and circle right 8 cts

Hands joined, walk into circle 4 cts

Hands joined, walk backwards out of circle 4 cts

Face partner and walk in a right hand star 8 cts

Change direction with a left elbow swing 8 cts

Do si do with partner 8 cts

Face partner, slap own thighs 2 cts, clap own hands 2 cts

Hit partner hands 2 cts, clap own hands 2 cts

Join hands and circle left 8 cts

Hands joined, walk into circle 4 cts

Hands joined, walk backwards out of circle 3 cts

Yell "Yee Haw on count 4)

Variation: Instead of doing the right hand star, elbow swing, and do si do all with the same partner, try right hand star with partner, left elbow swing with corner (the person on the other side of where you usually stand in the circle), and come back to your partner with a do si do.

