

# Pete Seeger Quotes

*Song, People, Thinking, Country, Years, World, Father, Believe, Men, Singing,  
School, Race, Art, Teamwork, Religious, Fall, Jobs, Teacher, Firsts, Kings*

I want to turn the clock back to when people lived in small villages and took care of each other.

~Pete Seeger

Do you know the difference between education and experience? Education is when you read the fine print; experience is what you get when you don't.

~Pete Seeger

Some of my ancestors were religious dissenters who came to America over three hundred years ago. Others were abolitionists in New England in the eighteen forties and fifties.

~Pete Seeger

It's a very important thing to learn to talk to people you disagree with.

~Pete Seeger

I tell kids, don't trust the media. The media with their emphasis on fame is helping to destroy this country, helping destroy the human race. It's the plug-in drug.

~Pete Seeger

Shh. Listen to the sounds that surround you. Notice the pitches, the volume, the timbre, the many lines of counterpoint. As light taught Monet to paint, the earth may be teaching you music.

~Pete Seeger

Songs are funny things. They can slip across borders. Proliferate in prisons. Penetrate hard shells. I always believed that the right song at the right moment could change history.

~Pete Seeger

This world is so full of hypocrisy, the only way you can be honest is to be a hermit.

~Pete Seeger

Long live teachers of children, because they can show children how they can save the world.

~Pete Seeger

If it can't be reduced, reused, repaired, rebuilt, refurbished, refinished, resold, recycled or composted, then it should be restricted, redesigned or removed from production.

~Pete Seeger

Technology will save us if it doesn't wipe us out first.

~Pete Seeger

Little boxes made of ticky-tacky, and they all look just the same.

~Pete Seeger

I still call myself a communist, because communism is no more what Russia made of it than Christianity is what the churches make of it.

~Pete Seeger

The first step in solving a problem is admitting there is a problem to be solved.

~Pete Seeger

The key to the future of the world is finding the optimistic stories and letting them be known.

~Pete Seeger

I'd really rather put songs on people's lips than in their ears.

~Pete Seeger

The easiest way to avoid wrong notes is to never open your mouth and sing. What a mistake that would be.

~Pete Seeger

I write a song because I want to. I think the moment you start writing it to make money, you're starting to kill yourself artistically.

~Pete Seeger

I think folk music helps reinforce your sense of history. An old song makes you think of times gone by.

~Pete Seeger

Most scientists know what needs to be done to save our Earth. But the politicians don't listen to them. They will listen to popular pressure; the people got to supply that.

~Pete Seeger

Realize that little things lead to bigger things.

~Pete Seeger

There is a big, beautiful world that could be destroyed by selfishness and foolishness. We musicians have it without power to save it. In a small way, every single one of us counts.

~Pete Seeger

Anybody who wants to learn everything is pretty stupid. You learn what you can.

~Pete Seeger

According to my definition of God, I'm not an atheist. Because I think God is everything. Whenever I open my eyes I'm looking at God. Whenever I'm listening to something I'm listening to God.

~Pete Seeger

Being generous of spirit is a wonderful way to live.

~Pete Seeger

Every time I read the paper those old feelings come on. We are waist deep in the Big Muddy and the big fool says to push on.

~Pete Seeger

Hope that there are many, many small leaders.

~Pete Seeger

The world would never amount to a hill of beans if people didn't use their imaginations to think of the impossible.

~Pete Seeger

Parents are the hardest-working members of the population. But they do it for the highest wages. Kisses.

~Pete Seeger

Songs won't save the planet, but neither will books or speeches.

~Pete Seeger

Every time I'm in the woods, i feel like I'm in church.

~Pete Seeger

This banjo surrounds hate and forces it to surrender.

~Pete Seeger

There is no such thing as a wrong note ... just as long as you're singing along.

~Pete Seeger

My job, is to show folks there's a lot of good music in this world, and if used right it may help to save the planet.

~Pete Seeger

I am not going to answer any questions as to my association, my philosophical or religious beliefs or my political beliefs, or how I voted in

any election, or any of these private affairs.

~Pete Seeger

If there's something wrong, speak up!

~Pete Seeger

I have sung in hobo jungles, and I have sung for the Rockefellers, and I am proud that I have never refused to sing for anybody.

~Pete Seeger

I like to say I'm more conservative than Goldwater. He just wanted to turn the clock back to when there was no income tax.

~Pete Seeger

It's been my belief that learning how to do something in your hometown is the most important thing.

~Pete Seeger

Food is one of the great organizing tools.

~Pete Seeger

I feel that my whole life is a contribution.

~Pete Seeger

I think the world is going to be saved by millions of small things.

~Pete Seeger

A good song reminds us what we're fighting for.

~Pete Seeger

The American Indians were Communists. They were. Every anthropologist will tell you they were Communists. No rich, no poor. If somebody needed something the community chipped in.

~Pete Seeger

Participation - that's what's gonna save the human race.

~Pete Seeger

A productive mistake is: (1) made in the service of mission and vision; (2) acknowledged as a mistake; (3) learned from; (4) considered valuable; (5) shared for the benefit of all.

~Pete Seeger

Plagiarism is basic to all culture

~Pete Seeger

I guess I've learned more from the Clearwater than anything else. All I did was help to plant a seed, and I didn't know what the hell I was doing.

~Pete Seeger

One of the things I'm most proud of about my country is the fact that we did lick McCarthyism back in the fifties.

~Pete Seeger

RULERS should be careful about what songs are allowed to be sung.

~Pete Seeger

How can you save the world you have not seen if you can't save the community you have seen?

~Pete Seeger

Do-so is more important than say-so.

~Pete Seeger

When will we ever learn? When will we ever learn?

~Pete Seeger

The truth is a rabbit in a bramble patch. All you can do is circle around

and say it's somewhere in there.

~Pete Seeger

But I decline to say who has ever listened to them, who has written them, or other people who have sung them.

~Pete Seeger

I think these are very improper questions for any American to be asked, especially under such compulsion as this. I would be very glad to tell you my life if you want to hear of it.

~Pete Seeger

I am saying voluntarily that I have sung for almost every religious group in the country, from Jewish and Catholic, and Presbyterian and Holy Rollers and Revival Churches.

~Pete Seeger

I decline to discuss, under compulsion, where I have sung, and who has sung my songs, and who else has sung with me, and the people I have known.

~Pete Seeger

If I've got a talent, it's for picking the right song at the right time for the right audience. And I can always seem to get people to sing with me.

~Pete Seeger

Looking back, I think I tried to be too eclectic. Sometimes I'd sing thirty songs, and fifteen of them were not in English.

~Pete Seeger

I believe that my choosing my present course I do no dishonor to them, or to those who may come after me.

~Pete Seeger



I have sung for Americans of every political persuasion, and I am proud that I never refuse to sing to an audience, no matter what religion or color of their skin, or situation in life.

~Pete Seeger

Did you ever want something really bad and then when you finally got it all you could do was stand there and grin at it?

~Pete Seeger

I keep reminding people that an editorial in rhyme is not a song. A good song makes you laugh, it makes you cry, it makes you think.

~Pete Seeger

Singing with children in the schools has been the most rewarding experience of my life.

~Pete Seeger

When I got out of school, I spent two years just hitchhiking around. Every time I met some old farmer who could play banjo, I got him to teach me a lick or two. Little by little, I put it together.

~Pete Seeger

Like most teachers, I'm just another sower of seeds.

~Pete Seeger

Work in nightclubs was interesting. There were interesting people and places, but by and large, the commercial music experience.

~Pete Seeger

I still prefer to hear [Bob] Dylan acoustic, some of his electric songs are absolutely great. Electric music is the vernacular of the second half of the twentieth century, to use my father's old term.

~Pete Seeger

Songwriters can't explain. You get an idea and you don't know where it's come from. And if you're lucky, you have a pencil or pen and can write it down.

~Pete Seeger

Some may find them merely diverting melodies. Others may find them incitements to Red revolution. And who will say if either or both is wrong? Not I.

~Pete Seeger

If you love this land of the free, bring them home, bring them home, Bring them back from overseas.

~Pete Seeger

Throughout history the leaders of the countries have been very particular about what songs should be sung. We know the power of songs.

~Pete Seeger

A song is like a picture of a bird in flight; the bird was moving before the picture was taken, and no doubt continued after.

~Pete Seeger

Get people to sing together and they'll act together too.

~Pete Seeger

Be wary of great leaders.

~Pete Seeger

If I had an axe on the evening at Newport when [Dylan] broke out the electric guitar, I'd have cut his cable.

~Pete Seeger

You can't work on everything all the time, so start where you are.

~Pete Seeger

Many Americans knew their lives and their souls were being struggled for, and they fought for it. And I felt I should carry on.

~Pete Seeger

Music has always had the ability to comfort and inspire.

~Pete Seeger

You have a right to your opinion and I've got a right to mine. Period.

~Pete Seeger

To everything there is a season.

~Pete Seeger

The good and bad are all tangled up together. American popular music is loved around the world because of its African rhythm. But that wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for slavery.

~Pete Seeger

The world will be solved by millions of small things.

~Pete Seeger

When you play the 12-string guitar, you spend half your life tuning the instrument and the other half playing it out of tune.

~Pete Seeger

Sometimes you find an old tune so good you can use it several times for different purposes.

~Pete Seeger

My mother playing the violin and my father and grandfather playing the piano, classical stuff.

~Pete Seeger

The first country conquered by any dictator is his own country.

~Pete Seeger

The real meaning of courage was the personal sacrifice of Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King.

~Pete Seeger

In the sixties, during the Vietnam war, when anarchists and pacifists and socialists, Democrats and Republicans, decent-hearted Americans, all recoiled with horror at the bloodbath, we came together.

~Pete Seeger

My father, Charles Seeger, got me into the Communist movement. He backed out around '38. I drifted out in the 50's.

~Pete Seeger

But if by some freak of history communism had caught up with this country, I would have been one of the first people thrown in jail.

~Pete Seeger

In a world of private property, if something isn't owned by somebody, it's going to be misused by somebody else.

~Pete Seeger

Again, I say I will be glad to tell what songs I have ever sung, because singing is my business.

~Pete Seeger

I used to agree with Kurt Vonnegut, who said that the human race has a snowball's chance in hell of being around a hundred years from now.

~Pete Seeger

Some folklorists just collected dead bones from one graveyard, only to bury them in another, their library.

~Pete Seeger

It's a terrible thing being a patriarch. I don't even have a gray beard. But people keep calling me up for advice.

~Pete Seeger

Alan [Lomax] and his father started off changing the definition of folk music from something ancient and anonymous to something very contemporary.

~Pete Seeger

It was only through the years that I realized what an absolutely extraordinarily thoughtful person Dr. King was.

~Pete Seeger

Music does affect your opinions. Plato is supposed to have said "It's very dangerous to allow the wrong kind of music into the republic."

~Pete Seeger

**Related Links:**

- Song Quotes
- People Quotes
- Thinking Quotes
- Country Quotes
- Years Quotes
- World Quotes
- Father Quotes
- Believe Quotes
- Men Quotes
- Singing Quotes
- School Quotes
- Race Quotes
- Art Quotes
- Teamwork Quotes
- Religious Quotes
- Fall Quotes
- Jobs Quotes
- Teacher Quotes
- Firsts Quotes
- Kings Quotes