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## Blowing in the Wind by Bob Dylan

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1. Use the following verbs in the blanks below. Some verbs are used twice. (Exercise 1 has been sourced and adapted from the internet)

allowed	fly	sail	walk
banned	have	sees	washed
call	hear	sleeps	
died	look	take	
exist	pretend	turn	

How many roads must a man \_\_\_\_\_ down

Before you \_\_\_\_\_ him a man?

How many seas must the white dove \_\_\_\_\_

Before she \_\_\_\_\_ in the sand?

How many times must the cannonballs \_\_\_\_\_

Before they're forever \_\_\_\_\_?

The answer my friend is blowing in the wind

The answer is blowing in the wind

How many years can a mountain \_\_\_\_\_

Before it's \_\_\_\_\_ to the sea?

How many years must some people \_\_\_\_\_

Before they're \_\_\_\_\_ to be free?

And how many times can a man \_\_\_\_\_ his head

And \_\_\_\_\_ that he just doesn't see?

The answer: the answer my friend is blowing in the wind

The answer is blowing in the wind

How many times can a man \_\_\_\_\_ up

Before he \_\_\_\_\_ the sky?

How many ears must one person \_\_\_\_\_

Before he can \_\_\_\_\_ people cry?

And how many deaths will it \_\_\_\_\_ till he knows

That too many people have \_\_\_\_\_?

The answer my friends is blowing in the wind

The answer is blowing in the wind.

Oh, the answer my friends is blowing in the wind

The answer is blowing in the wind.

1. Alternative worksheet for beginners.

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**Blowing In The Wind**

1. Choose the correct word..

How many roads must a man \_\_\_\_\_ (**wake/walk**) down  
Before you call him a man?

How many \_\_\_\_\_ (**see/seas**) must the white dove sail  
Before she sleeps in the sand?

How many times must the cannonballs fly  
Before they're forever banned?

The answer my friend is \_\_\_\_\_ (**bowling/blowing**) in the wind  
The answer is \_\_\_\_\_ (**bowling/blowing**) in the wind

How many \_\_\_\_\_ (**ears/years**) can a mountain exist  
Before it's washed to the sea?

How many years must some people exist

Before they're allowed to be \_\_\_\_\_ (**tree/free**)?

And how many times can a man \_\_\_\_\_ (**torn/turn**) his head  
And pretend that he just doesn't see?

The answer: the answer my friend is blowing in the wind  
The answer is blowing in the wind

How many times can a man look \_\_\_\_\_ (**up/down**)  
Before he sees the sky?

How many ears must one person have

Before he can \_\_\_\_\_ **here/hear** people cry?

And how many deaths will it take till he \_\_\_\_\_ **nose/knows**  
That too many people have died?

The answer my friends is blowing in the wind

The answer is blowing in the wind.

Oh, the answer my friends is blowing in the wind

The answer is blowing in the wind.

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2 How many years must some people exist before they are allowed to be free? How many years must a mountain exist before it is washed to the sea? "The answer is blowing in the wind." Explain this line in your own words.

3. Make a list of unanswerable questions. See how many each of you can contribute? E.g. "Why are some people dishonest and others extremely honest?"  
"How big is the sky?"

**4. Compose your own verse using rhetorical questions.**

How many .....

Before.....?

How many.....

Before.....?

And how many...

That .....

The answer my friends is blowing in the wind.

The answer is blowing in the wind.

**5a. Conditionals, creative writing: Make sentences beginning with 'If' taking lines from the song**

e.g. If a man walks down every road he will meet a lot of people.

If the cannon balls are banned .....

If a mountain is washed to the sea .....

**5b. Conditionals, creative writing: Create original sentences beginning with "If"**

1.....?

2.....?

3.....?

## KEY

1.

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### Lyrics: Blowing In The Wind

How many roads must a man walk down  
Before you call him a man?  
How many seas must the white dove sail  
Before she sleeps in the sand?  
How many times must the cannonballs fly  
Before they're forever banned?  
The answer my friend is blowing in the wind  
The answer is blowing in the wind

How many years can a mountain exist  
Before it's washed to the sea?  
How many years must some people exist  
Before they're allowed to be free?  
And how many times can a man turn his head  
And pretend that he just doesn't see?  
The answer: the answer my friend is blowing in the wind  
The answer is blowing in the wind

How many times can a man look up  
Before he sees the sky?  
How many ears must one person have  
Before he can hear people cry?  
And how many deaths will it take till he knows  
That too many people have died?  
The answer my friends is blowing in the wind  
The answer is blowing in the wind.  
Oh, the answer my friends is blowing in the wind  
The answer is blowing in the wind.

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## 2. Elicit 'rhetorical questions', if possible.

*How many years can a mountain exist before it's washed to the sea?*

*And how many years can some people exist before they're allowed to be free?*

The most interesting and most important questions in life often prove the most challenging. In some respects they may be unanswerable. Even though convincing, complete answers may be elusive and unobtainable, the questions remain central to human existence. Often these are dilemmas, paradoxes, conundrums, mysteries and puzzles which have inspired playwrights, poets and songwriters for thousands of years.

Children are born with a knack for asking such unanswerable questions, but they are too often trained to suppress them by adults who have little patience for such questions.

"Why do so many people shoot at other people?"

"Why do so many people take drugs? "How far does the Universe extend? What's on the other side?"