

Bach Festival Society

OF WINTER PARK

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ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

FreshSTARTs Program

The World Turned Upside Down: Music and Stories of the American Revolution

Appropriate for: Grades 3-11

Materials needed: Microphone for groups larger than 100

This program covers the following Sunshine State Standards:

MU.A. 1.2 Students sing Patriotic song and understand its meaning

MU.E.1.2 Students learn about music and history

SS.A.1.2 Students learn about the American Revolutionary War

SS.A.1.2 Students understand how events influence history

LA.C1.2 Students participate in skits and songs

MA.A.3.2 Students use mathematical formulas

Objectives:

Students will understand the role music and art played in the Revolutionary War and how the arts, especially music and drama, make every subject easier and more enjoyable to learn. They will see how the songs sung and played demonstrated various points of view and how music was used to inspire and share stories important to the times. Students will be able to feel the different perspectives of the courageous people who fought on both sides of the war through musical and theatrical participation. Students will also understand the reasons for the American Revolutionary War, the meaning of freedom, and how the freedoms they enjoy as Americans came to be. Students will know the important historical facts and be able to use their knowledge effectively.

Connections to Learning:

The arts experience naturally connects with social studies and reading. The artists use math as the students participate in troop drills. Students call out the degrees of each turn. Teachers can also use the math lesson plans provided by the artists which use calculations to determine the times that Paul Revere sounded the alarm on April 18, 1775. Science is used to demonstrate the difficulty of fighting during this period in history. Battles were often stopped because of rain and wind due to the rudimentary science of the muskets and cannon. The Americans developed a few rifles that gave them an advantage!

Introduction/Background information:

Teachers may introduce the instruments to be used in the program namely the fife and rope tension drum.

Helpful Background information:

- King George III: King of England
- Battle of Lexington April 19, 1775: The first shots were fired that began the fight for freedom
- Battle of Saratoga, 1777: Turning point of the war when the colonists won the battle and the French decided to join the war on the side of the colonists

- King Louis XVI: King of France during American Revolutionary War
- Siege of Yorktown: The British surrender to the American army. It was the last major battle of the Revolutionary War

Pre-visit Activities:

Teachers can prepare the students to sing two songs: Yankee Doodle and The World Turned Upside Down. Teachers can query students about the meaning of the songs and the way they might have been used during the war. Students should have at least some knowledge of American history from 1775-1781. Students should understand that music was used to signal troops during battle, to raise morale, to recruit, and for marching. Interpreting music and words also helps us understand how people thought and felt during this important time in our history. Students can learn about a few of the important figures and events such as King George III; Battle of Saratoga; King Louis XVI; Yorktown and the Battle of Lexington to make participation in the dramatic storytelling more familiar.

Post-visit Activities:

What role did music play in the American Revolutionary War? Do you think music played a role in the Civil War? What role might it have played in WWII, the Vietnam War and the conflict in Iraq?

Using some of the paintings and pictures used in the power point during the program, create a student tableaux (students assume roles of the characters in the painting and freeze in the poses). Each student can imagine themselves as the character and when tapped to unfreeze their motion, report who they are what they are feeling as that character.

Additional Materials:

Students can use the web to research the important characters of the Revolutionary War such as George Washington, Paul Revere, Benedict Arnold, Nathaniel Greene, General Cornwallis, General Clinton, and General Howe. They can learn about important events such as the Battle of Lexington, Washington's Christmas surprise, the Battle of Saratoga, and the Battle of Yorktown. They can read books about the Boston Tea Party, The Boston Massacre, and Paul Revere's Ride.

Program Experience:

Entertain: The artists surprise and delight students by entering from the back of the room in full continental uniform and playing Yankee Doodle on period instruments. Exposure to new instruments: the fife and rope tension drum intrigue students. Affirmation of students' knowledge combined with new knowledge: The artists engage the students in a dramatic play about the red uniforms that, according to history, look like British uniforms. Students discover that the musicians in the Continental army wore red uniforms so that they would stand out! Standing out was important as it made it easier for officers to find them when they needed to give a signal on the battle field. Students learn all the ways that music was used in the war such as marching, communication, celebrating and recruiting. Together, students participate in discovering the meaning of 'macaroni' in Yankee Doodle and the way the British used the song to make fun of the colonists and the creative way George Washington used it to inspire his troops. Students help to set the stage by becoming British, loyalists, patriots and important figures such as King Louis XVI, Native Americans, and minutemen. With the help of students, the artists re-enact the major battles and events of the war. Students learn that the British played the song The World Turned Upside Down as they surrendered at Yorktown and the meaning of the song on that important day.

Movement: Students love becoming Patriots and executing the maneuvers signaled by the drum beats. They learn drum signals such as flam and stroke and the combinations that signaled right face, left face and about face.

Review: Students review the Declaration of Independence and the importance of it in history and its relevance today; they review the meaning of Yankee Doodle and The World Turned Upside Down and the significance of major battles in winning the war. They review the role music and musicians played in this important period in their countries' history. In conclusion, students sing Yankee Doodle with new understanding of the American Revolutionary War and the meaning of freedom.

Assessment:

Students demonstrate throughout the program that they understand the material by their participation. Teachers can observe the students' participation during the program and their responses during the review. They can also use the FCAT style Inventory of Learning provided by the artists to measure learning. Most teachers report that students retain the information provided in the program and score well in social studies standardized testing. The artists also suggest arts related activities such as writing new words to The World Turned Upside Down to demonstrate their understanding, creating maps of battles and time lines to demonstrate their factual knowledge, and rap type songs to capture their understanding of major events.