

The Colonial Faire Study Guide



Interactive Plays

Kitty's unique interactive plays weave history, literature, manners, customs, dance and music into theatrical presentations where audience members - both teachers and students - portray the key characters and historical figures of the times. Great sensitivity is used when involving participants, as some folks would prefer to sit back and watch the antics of their comrades.

In order to set good examples of theatre etiquette, it is respectfully requested that teachers attend programs without papers or homework in hand.

The Colonial Faire

Pennsylvania (1738) The program focuses on a day in the life of an indentured servant. The show depicts the arduous life of early America as well as the revelry. Though days of rest and merriment are few, today is the day of the colonial faire. With the excitement of the faire on everyone's mind, townsfolk eagerly apply themselves to their work in order to enjoy the day. Beginning with a list of chores already performed, servant Katie Cotswold invites the assistance of those around her to gather dye for the wool and prepare the wool to be dyed (including carding). Once her chores are complete, she sets off with others to enjoy the colonial faire. A variety of colonial games are played by folks (the students) from the village. The day concludes with a rollicking and colorful Maypole dance.



Katie Cotswold - Indentured Servant

Miss Katie is a fictitious colonial woman. She wears her best yet simple colonial dress and servant's hat with an apron (which she removes for the faire) and shoes.

Performance Objectives

Create a supportive environment whereby students' participation results in a positive, self-affirming experience that allows them to co-create the show with the character by introducing students to the essence of Colonial Life and demonstrating the contrast between the 18th and 21st centuries.

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Pre-Show Preparation

Familiarize students with time period of Colonial America and the thirteen colonies.

Discuss endless daily work for these people such as gathering wood for warmth, clearing the fields for farming, hunting for meat, preparing the meals (grinding the grain for bread, milking the cows, slaughtering the pigs), feeding the animals, making the clothing, mending the clothing, cleaning the clothing. All performed for basic survival.

Post-Show Activities

- Have students develop their own Colonial character like a farmer, merchant, tradesperson etc. and research the work that person did.
- Have students then give a demonstration of their trade
- Discuss with whom each towns person would interact
- Upon whom did they depend?
- Have students create their own celebration with colonial games
- Research the beginning of their town - where did the first inhabitants come from?

The Artist

Having developed her unique style of interactive theatre since 1987, Kitty combines her passion for history with her love of theatre to create 16 different high-energy shows.

Ms. Jones brings 4000 years of history and literature to life in programs ranging from *The Mysteries of Ancient Egypt* to *Women's Rights*. Since 1996, she has written, choreographed, produced and performed her own original material for Kit's Interactive Theatre. Kitty Jones has appeared on TV, Film and the stages of New York.



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