

Teacher's Guide
for
STEADFAST AND SPIRITED:
Stories of the American Revolution

by Lynn Ruehlmann
Storyteller

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The show "Steadfast and Spirited" traces events, attitudes and conditions during the American Revolution by following the lives of some of the people involved in the war.

1. Pick a person who was involved in the American Revolution.

Construct a poster of that person including information such as:

- a. Portrait or line drawing
- b. Physical description
- c. Person's character traits
- d. Events that took place during their life
and what they did in those events
- e. Dates of their life
- f. Other people involved in their life

2. There were many tunes brought to America by the colonists. "Yankee Doodle" may have come from England, Holland, Germany or some other country. Once in America, British wrote new verses for the song to ridicule American soldiers. One verse was:

Yankee Doodle came to town,
For to buy a firelock,
We will tar and feather him,
And so we will John Hancock.

Later, American soldiers took the tune as their own, making up verses about their own officers, such as:

There came General Washington,
Upon a snow white charger,
He looked as big as all outdoors,
And thought that he was larger.

Using facts about Revolutionary War events (Paul Revere and his midnight ride, or the Battle of Bunker Hill, or King George III enacting the Stamp Act), write your own new verses to the tune of "Yankee Doodle."

3. Imagine you are a soldier or a female camp follower in the American Revolution. Think about how old you might be, if you are a Loyalist or a Patriot, and why you are on the battlefield. Write a letter home (to your mother, father, sister or brother, school friend or fiance) about where you are, what you've been doing or feeling, and what it's been like being in a battle or waiting for a battle.

4. Pick an important figure of the war (*Gen. Cornwallis, Gen. Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Patrick Henry, Benedict Arnold*) and write a poem using one of the following ideas on each line:
 - a. Person's first name
 - b. Something about their character traits
 - c. Who are relatives of the person
 - d. Who is their spouse
 - e. What is the person feeling
 - f. What does the person need
 - g. What does the person fear
 - h. What does the person give to America
 - i. Where does the person live
 - j. Person's last name

Glossary

Loyalist: Person who favored British rule in America.

Tory: The English conservative political party. American colonists who chose to fight on the British side called themselves Tories.

Redcoat: British soldier. Also called "lobster backs." The name came from the red wool coats that British infantry soldiers wore, although, actually, many in the English military wore green or blue coats.

Whig: English political party which eventually became the Liberal party. American colonists who opposed British rule during the Revolution called themselves Whigs.

Patriot: Person who actively supported American independence from Britain.

Sons of Liberty: Radical groups or clubs, operating in secret, which were organized to rebel against the Stamp Act.

Musket: Muzzle-loaded gun with a long, smooth barrel, fired from the shoulder. A lead musket ball, powder and wadding had to be rammed down the barrel with a ramrod before each shot.

About Storyteller Lynn Ruehlmann

Lynn has been a professional storyteller since 1990. She has taught storytelling at Old Dominion University, won a Folio Award for Best Actress in a Comedy, and Artist of the Year from Young Audiences of Virginia.

Her recording of "Spy! The Story of Civil War Spy Elizabeth Van Lew" won two national awards.

EVALUATION FOR PROGRAM BY
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*Lynn Ruehlmann came to your school recently. Could you please take an minute to fill out this evaluation and return it to her at 621 New Hampshire Avenue
Norfolk, Virginia 23508
Or e-mail: ruehlmann@erols.com*

Thanks so much for your help!

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What program or workshop did you attend?

What did you or your students like best about the program and/or workshop? Why?

Was there anything you or your students would have wanted changed?

Are there any particular stories or kinds of stories that you would like to hear in the future?

What material or skills would you like covered in the future in a workshop?

Do you have any other comments?

Optional signature

Thank you again for your help and opinions. They are so important and appreciated!