



KATIE'S ADVENTURE IN VIRGINIA HISTORY

Bright Star Touring Theatre Study Guide

About the show:

It's the day of the big Virginia History test at school, and Katie is excited! Though she just moved to Virginia, she's already learning about the fascinating history of her new state! When her teacher gives her a few minutes to review before the test, Katie cracks open her book and begins a journey through more than 400 years of Virginia's history. From Chief Powhatan to Patrick Henry to James Madison, some of the most influential, exciting and colorful figures in Virginia's past emerge to help Katie prepare. She also learns that in Virginia, the geography is as important in shaping its history as the people who roamed the mountains and sailed the coastline. Katie even gets a chance to participate in history, as do volunteers from the audience, when she meets musicians, scientists, and farmers from modern day Virginia! When her teacher returns, Katie is exhilarated and ready to take her test!



At the end of the play, Katie's teacher reminds her that we all have the opportunity to join Virginia's legacy. Virginia has produced artists, athletes, scholars and politicians – and many Presidents of the United States of America! Take time after the play to think about what you would most like to do to see your name in the history book. The possibilities are endless, and you can be as creative as you want! All of us have the power to make the world a better place, and we can start right at home in Virginia!

About Our Production:

This production is a touring show with Bright Star Touring Theatre. Our productions are seen by audiences in as many as 16 different states, but because this show is a regional production, it will only be seen in Virginia! Professional actors join Bright Star from across the United States to tour our shows. In a typical week, they'll perform in 10-13 different venues - like schools, libraries, and theatres. After the show, our actors are available for you to ask questions about this production and their lives as actors - it's one of the most exciting parts of the Bright Star experience - and we hope you'll have a chance to have your question answered!



Words to Know:

Theatre is a form of storytelling that has been entertaining people for thousands of years. Theatre has its own kind of language. Here are some terms that actors, directors, and other “theatre people” use all the time!

Audition: A hopeful actor will either read, sing or dance (or sometimes all three!) in order for the director to decide which actor she wants to cast in a particular role.

Director: The director reads the script, and tells the actors where they should go and what they should do. Each director has a different way of telling a story from every other director, and this means that each play will be unique from every other play!

Set: All of the scenery on the stage is part of what is called the “set.” It helps to paint a picture of where the story takes place, so it is easier for the audience to follow the play. For *Katie’s Adventure in Virginia History*, our actors use a backdrop, which is the colorful painted background.

Costumes: All of the clothes that are worn onstage by the actors are costumes. The hats, the coats, and even the shirts and shoes are all part of the costumes!

Props: Anything that an actor carries during the show is a prop. Can you remember any of the props used by the actors in this play?

Rehearsal: Once the cast of the play is set, everyone needs to practice to get ready for the show.

Actors: These are the people that you see on stage. They each have a character to play, and they spend a long time rehearsing before they perform. They have to learn where they should walk, when they should talk, and how their characters should act. It’s a lot of work!

and of course -

Audience: Perhaps the most important element in the show! The audience consists of the people who watch the play. You were our audience for *Katie’s Adventure in Virginia History*!

Katie’s Timeline:

- 13000+ BC** - Native Americans arrive in Virginia.
- 1520 AD** – Giovanni Da Verrazano explores the coast of Virginia for the French.
- 1585** – Sir Walter Raleigh explores the coastline of Virginia and North Carolina.
- 1607** – Chief Powhatan controls more than 150 different tribal villages across the state.
- 1607** – Jamestown, the first permanent English colony, is established on the banks of the Chesapeake.
- 1619** – Slaves arrive in Jamestown.
- 1705** – The capital of Virginia is moved from Jamestown to Williamsburg.
- 1751** – James Madison is born in Port Conway, Virginia.
- 1759** – James Monroe is born in Westmoreland County, Virginia.
- 1775** – Patrick Henry gives his famous “Give me liberty or give me death” speech in St. John’s Church in Richmond.
- 1776** – Virginia signs the Declaration of Independence.
- 1780** – Richmond is named Virginia’s capital.
- 1781** - The British surrendered to George Washington in Yorktown, ending the Revolutionary War.
- 1787** – The Constitution is adopted by the Constitutional Convention. Virginian James Madison is called “The Father of the Constitution.”
- 1789** – George Washington is elected President of the United States.
- 1804-1806:** Lewis and Clark explore the Northwestern region of the United States.
- 1819** – Thomas Jefferson founds the University of Virginia.
- 1826** – On the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson dies.
- 1856** – Woodrow Wilson is born in Staunton, Virginia.
- 1861** -The Civil War breaks out between the North and the South. It lasts four years and costs hundreds of thousands of people their lives.
- 1861** – Richmond is named the capital of the Confederacy.
- 1863** – Approximately 24,000 square miles are carved off from Virginia to form the new state of West Virginia.
- 1865** – General Robert E. Lee surrenders to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House, ending the Civil War.
- 1873** - High-grade coal is discovered in Southwest Virginia.
- 1901** – Booker T. Washington publishes his autobiography *Up From Slavery*.
- 1932** - Patsy Cline was born in Winchester, VA.

Classroom Activities:

Scene Study!

This activity incorporates creative thinking, research, writing, and performance!

1. Form a small group with other students in your class. Choose an event from Virginia History - perhaps one from the play or one that was not dramatized. Some examples of events are: Patrick Henry's speech at St. John's Church, the surrender of the British at Yorktown, the first land battle of the Civil War at Manassas, or the discovery of coal in Southwestern Virginia.
2. Turn the research into a presentation. Presentations could take the form of a newscast, an interview, a play, a song - the possibilities are endless! Think about how costumes, props, and the set could help bring your presentation to life. If there's time, try to create some of these props or costume pieces from everyday items!
3. Time for performance! Perform your presentation, and remember to be a good audience member while you watch your friends onstage!

Map It!

This activity incorporates social studies and geography!

Find the following places associated with Virginia's History on a map:

Mount Rogers, Chesapeake Bay, Jamestown, Richmond, Williamsburg, Alexandria, Monticello, Charlottesville, Galax, Yorktown, New River, Appomattox Court House, Smithfield, Marion

BONUS: What is significant about each place?

Design a Flag!

This activity incorporates creative thinking, visual art and writing!

You have been asked to design a new flag for the Commonwealth of Virginia! What colors would you use? Would you use images or words or both?

1. Pull out the paper and the crayons or colored pencils.
2. Create a flag that symbolizes Virginia to you. Be creative!
3. Write a short description about your flag.
4. Share with your class! Show your flag and read your description! Be prepared to talk about why you made your specific choices!

Seeing the Play:

Attending the theatre is very different than going to the movies or watching television. For one thing, the actors are real people who can hear and see everything that's happening in the audience. It's important to know a few rules before seeing a play:

- ★ Please be quiet and respectful during the performance so that those around you can hear what's happening.
- ★ If something's funny, it's okay to laugh!
- ★ If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.

What else can you add to the list?

Questions for Discussion:

1. If you had the chance to meet anyone in Virginia's history, who would you choose? Why?
2. What would be your favorite parts of being an early colonist at Jamestown? What would be the hardest parts?
3. How are people in Virginia's past similar to people today? How are they different?
4. What are some other significant events in Virginia's history that our play didn't dramatize?
5. What role did Virginia's geography play in shaping past events?
6. If this play were to be produced again in 100 years, what events do you think would be talked about?

Katie's Virginia History Test:

Using the words from below, fill in the blanks to help Katie ace her Virginia History test. All of these answers can be found in our play!

1. In 1520, the Italian explorer _____
_____ explored the coast of Virginia for the French.
2. Jamestown, Virginia was settled in _____.
3. "Nitáp" (pronounced "knee-TAUP") is the Algonquin word for _____.
4. The _____ River is the second oldest river in the world and runs through Galax.
5. The Chesapeake Bay is part of the _____ region of Virginia.
6. Mount Rogers is in the _____ region of Virginia.
7. The state bird of Virginia is the _____.
8. Three of the Native tribes that lived in Virginia were:
_____, _____, and _____.
9. Chief Powhatan's daughter was named _____.
10. _____ suggested the name "Virginia" to honor Queen Elizabeth..
11. Three crops grown in Virginia are:
_____, _____, and _____.
12. Three Presidents (out of eight!) who were born in Virginia are:
_____, _____, and _____.
13. The state fish of Virginia is the _____.
14. The state flower of Virginia is the _____.
15. Thomas Jefferson wrote the _____ in 1776.
16. "The Father of the Constitution" is _____.
17. George Washington's house is called _____.
18. Lewis and Clark began their expedition in _____.
19. West Virginia was formed from a section of Virginia in _____.
20. Booker T. Washington fought for _____ for all African-Americans.



Find your answers from these choices:

Rappahannock * Blue Ridge * Pocahontas * Soybeans * 1804 * Declaration of Independence * 1607
Sir Walter Raleigh * James Madison * Mount Vernon * New * Cherokee * Tobacco * Tidewater * Tomatoes
Woodrow Wilson * Dogwood * George Washington * Powhatan * Giovanni Da Verrazano * Thomas Jefferson
1863 * Education * Cardinal * Brook Trout * My Friend

