



JACK'S ADVENTURE IN NORTH CAROLINA HISTORY

Bright Star Touring Theatre

Study Guide

About the show:



It's the day of the big North Carolina History test at school, and Jack is excited! North Carolina History is actually his favorite class, and he's been studying for this test all year! When his teacher gives him a few minutes to review, Jack cracks open his book and begins a journey through more than 400 years of North Carolina's history. From Sir Walter Raleigh to Zebulon Vance to Wilbur and Orville Wright, some of the most influential, exciting and colorful figures in North Carolina's past emerge to help Jack prepare. He also learns that in North Carolina, the geography is as important in shaping history as the people who roamed the mountains and sailed the coastline. Jack even gets a chance to participate in history, as do volunteers from the audience, when he meets musicians, scientists, and farmers from modern day North Carolina! When his teacher returns, Jack is exhilarated and ready to take his test!

At the end of the play, Jack's teacher reminds him that we all have the opportunity to join North Carolina's legacy. North Carolina has produced artists, athletes, scholars and politicians – even several 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! All of us have the power to make the world a better place, and we can start right at home in North Carolina!

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 North Carolina! 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 *Jack’s Adventure in North Carolina 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 *Jack’s Adventure in North Carolina History*!

Jack’s Timeline:

- 9000+ BC** - Native Americans arrive in North Carolina.
- 1524 AD** – Giovanni Da Verrazano explored the coast of North Carolina for the French.
- 1540** – Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto arrives in Western North Carolina on his search for gold.
- 1585** – Sir Walter Raleigh explores the coastline of North Carolina.
- 1587** – The Roanoke Colony, also known as “The Lost Colony,” is established in Manteo.
- 1587** – Virginia Dare is the first English baby to be born in the New World.
- 1655** – Nathaniel Batts is the first recorded European to permanently settle in North Carolina.
- 1717 – 1719** – Blackbeard roams Ocracoke and the North Carolina coastline with his ship, *The Queen Anne’s Revenge*.
- 1776** – North Carolina is the first state to vote for independence from the British.
- 1789** – North Carolina becomes the 12th state to join the Union.
- 1789** - The first public university in America is founded with the opening of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- 1794** - North Carolina chooses Raleigh as its state capital.
- 1799** – Gold is discovered at the Reed Mine in Cabarrus County.
- 1828** – North Carolina native Andrew Jackson is elected President of the United States.
- 1831** – The Capital catches on fire when a crew attempts to fireproof it.
- 1845** – James K. Polk, born in Pineville, NC, is elected President of the United States.
- 1853** – North Carolina holds its first state fair.
- 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.
- 1862** – Zebulon Vance is elected to his first term as Governor of North Carolina.
- 1865** – Andrew Johnson, another North Carolinian, becomes President after Lincoln’s assassination.
- 1903** – Orville and Wilbur Wright fly the first plane at Kitty Hawk, NC.
- 1929** – “The Old North State” is adopted as North Carolina’s State Song.
- 1941** – The dogwood is selected as the State Flower.
- 1943** – The cardinal is chosen as the State Bird.
- 1960** – Four students from North Carolina A&T sit down for food service at the Greensboro Woolworth’s, eventually sparking the Sit-In Movement across the nation.
- 2005** – The State Fish is the Mountain Brook Trout.

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 North Carolina History - perhaps one from the play or one that was not dramatized. Some examples of events are: the Greensboro Woolworth's Sit-In, the migration of the Cherokee on the Trail of Tears, the disappearance of the colonists at "The Lost Colony," or the battle at Kings Mountain during the Revolutionary War.
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 North Carolina's History on a map:

Ocracoke, Manteo, French Broad River, Beaufort Inlet, Raleigh, Greensboro, the Appalachian Mountains, Kings Mountain, Chapel Hill, Pineville

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 State of North Carolina! 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 North Carolina 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 North Carolina's history, who would you choose? Why?
2. What would be your favorite parts of being an early colonist? What would be the hardest parts? What do you think happened to the colonists of "The Lost Colony"?
3. How are people in North Carolina's past similar to people today? How are they different?
4. What are some other significant events in North Carolina's history that our play didn't dramatize?
5. Are there still explorers in North Carolina? How has technology affected North Carolina's citizens throughout the years?
6. If this play were to be produced again in 100 years, what events do you think would be talked about?

Jack's North Carolina History Test:

Using the words from below, fill in the blanks to help Jack ace his North Carolina History test. All of these answers can be found in our play!

1. In 1520, the Italian explorer _____
_____ explored the coast of North Carolina for the French.

2. The Roanoke Colony or "The Lost Colony" was settled in _____.

3. "Osiyo" (pronounced "Oh-say-Oh") is the Cherokee word for _____.

4. The _____ River is the third oldest river in the world and runs through Asheville.

5. _____ was the first English baby to be born in the New World

6. _____ was carved into the trunk of a tree at "The Lost Colony."

7. The state bird of North Carolina is the _____.

8. Three of the Native tribes that lived in North Carolina were:

_____, _____, and _____.

9. _____ was the first European to permanently settle in North Carolina in 1655.

10. Blackbeard's ship, which was wrecked at Beaufort Inlet, was called _____.

11. Three crops grown in North Carolina are: _____, _____, and _____.

12. The three Presidents who were born in North Carolina are:

_____, _____, and _____.

13. The state fish of North Carolina is the _____.

14. The state flower of North Carolina is the _____.

15. On _____, North Carolina is the first state to vote for independence from the British.

16. _____ was discovered at the Reed Mine in 1799.

17. Andrew Jackson's nickname was _____.

18. North Carolina is often called the _____ state.

19. Orville and Wilbur Wright flew their plane at Kitty Hawk in _____.

20. In 1960, four students from North Carolina A&T sat down at the Woolworth's lunch counter in the town of _____.



Find your answers from these choices:

Hello * Giovanni Da Verrazano * French Broad * Cherokee * Apples * Andrew Jackson * Yadkin
James K. Polk * Gold * Andrew Johnson * Cardinal * Dogwood * 1587 * Croatoan * Nathaniel Batts
The Queen Anne's Revenge * April 12, 1776 * Peanuts * Mountain Brook Trout * Old Hickory * Tar Heel 1903
Greensboro * Virginia Dare * Catawba * Sweet Potatoes

