

**CONRAD PRODUCTIONS
41 WASHINGTON PLACE
EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ 07073
(201) 935 - 6396 * 1 - 800 - 352 - 7256**

CULTURAL ARTS EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMS

TO: Assembly Coordinator
From: Bob Conrad
RE: Assembly Program

Enclosed are newsletter/bulletin information, and study guides for the program **Songs That Helped Build America**. Please use these materials to prepare for the assembly as indicated.

Bulletin Information: This information may be used verbatim or in an edited version for the school newsletter, bulletin, or other media.

Study Guides: Classroom discussion of the subject matter presented in the program will greatly facilitate student comprehension of the educational content of the program. Please provide a copy of the study guides to each of the classroom teachers.

We thank you for your efforts in preparing students for the upcoming assembly program.

NEWSLETTER/BULLETIN INFORMATION

Bob Conrad, professional school assembly presenter specializing in entertaining, educational assembly programs, will be performing for the students of _____ School on _____ (date) at _____(time) .

Mr. Conrad will present his program "Songs That Helped Build America". This delightful musical program is designed to introduce students to the traditional music that played so great a role in the growth of our nation. Indeed, the history of this great nation can be told in it's music, and Bob Conrad does just that. His songs and stories will take the students on an unforgettable musical voyage through time. An accomplished musician Mr. entertainer he mixes music, dance, puppets, ventriloquism , and story telling to tell the story of America.

Bob Conrad travels to hundreds of schools trough out New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania each year presenting this and other educational programs. No newcomer to he field of children's entertainment , Conrad has been appearing at schools, shopping malls, libraries, museums, camps and picnics for more than 25 years. He is the author of " THE PUPPETRY WORKSHOP MANUAL", " MOUTH PUPPETS", and "BOB CONRAD'S CHALK TALK CARTOONS". Considered an expert in the field of children's entertainment he is a regular columnist in "LAUGH MAKERS" magazine. For ten years he was the editor of "PUPPETRY WORKSHEET" the official newsletter of the AMERICAN PUPPETMAKERS ASSOCIATION, of which he was one of the founders. He is a member of the Puppeteers of America, The Puppetry Guild of New York, The North American Association of Ventriloquists, and the Society of American Magicians.

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Photo's may be down loaded from Web Site

Visit us on the Web at www.conradproductions.net

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CULTURAL ARTS EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY PROGRAMS

SONGS THAT HELPED BUILD AMERICA

A TEACHERS GUIDE

TEACHERS" OUTLINE

This program is designed to introduce students to the traditional music that played so great a role in the growth of our nation. With the help of a large map of the United States, hats of the various periods, and a talking guitar, Bob Conrad traces the history of our great nation through music and song. Using the performing skills of music, dance, puppetry, ventriloquism , and story telling this program makes history and geography a fun-filled learning experience. The program is presented in a lighthearted, entertaining fashion that is both educational and fun at the same time. It is a stepping off point that can lead to in depth discussion in the classroom at any grade level. Please use this program as an introduction and follow up with classroom discussion .

OUR TWO OBJECTIVES

1. First , just as students are taught how to exit the school in case of a fire, they need to learn how to assemble in a quiet and orderly manner. This program is a **live** program which is **spontaneously** presented and not automatically presented as a movie or television program. Therefore, it calls for students to be on extra good behavior. This means reminding them before the program about **good assembly manners**, such as not talking, sitting up straight, keeping hands to themselves and laughing/ applauding the program without booing or whistling.
2. Second, the purpose of the program is to introduce , broaden, and give depth to the individual student's conception of how music and song played such an important part in building our country. We also introduce them to the history of our great nation and of the geography of the land we live in. Younger students will understand that this great nation wasn't always here and that it took 200 years to build the America we know today.. They will be introduced to history and geography in an entertaining fun manner. Older elementary students will enjoy the program because it puts the fun back into learning, and will give them a different perspective of American history.

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AREAS OF CURRICULUM INTO WHICH PROGRAM MAY BE INTEGRATED:

SOCIAL STUDIES, GEOGRAPHY, ENGLISH, LITERATURE, ART, DRAMA, MUSIC.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

FIRST OMNIBUS OF FOLK SONGS ; BY ALBERT GAMSE, LEWIS PUBLISHING, NYC

GOLDEN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FOLK MUSIC, CHARLES HANSEN EDUCATIONAL MUSIC, NYC

SONGS THAT MADE AMERICA, BY JAMES A. WARNER, GROSSMAN PUBLISHING, NYC.

WE SING , SING-ALONGS, BY PAMELA CONN BEALL & SUSAN HAGEN NIPP, PRICE STERN SLOAN, LOS ANGELES

GREAT AMERICAN FOLKLORE, BY KEMP P. BATTLE, BARNES & NOBLE BOOKS.

THE FIRESIDE BOOK OF AMERICAN SONGS, MARGARET BRADFORD BONI, SIMON & SCHUSTER, NY.

PREPARATION FOR THIS PROGRAM:

Some familiarity with the following songs would help ; Yankee Doodle, On Top of Old Smoky, Sixteen Tons, My Darling Clementine, Polly Wolly Doodle, Coming Round the Mountain, Shortening Bread , Dixie, When Johnny Comes Marching Home, I've Been Working on the Railroad, Waiting For The Robert E. Lee, When the Saints Come Marching in, Home on the Range, This Land is Your Land.

SUGGESTED FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES :

It has been said that learning occurs as we reflect about what has happened - it is important to allow time for student reflection after the program. Three ways are:

1. Assign the composition of letters relating to the program. These may be addressed to the performer, the PTA (if they sponsored the presentation) , the administrator, or even the local newspaper.
2. Assign the drawing of posters that relate to the program just seen.
- 3: Classroom discussion of the following:
 - a. Discuss the various periods of American history highlighted in the program. b. Discuss the living conditions of the various periods, and compare these to modern America.
 - c. Discuss how different American life would be today if;
 1. The revolutionary war had never occurred and we were still a British Colony.

2. We never completed the trans continental railroad.
3. We didn't buy the Louisiana Purchase from the French.
4. The Civil war never happened, or if the South had won the war.
- d. A discussion of music and the theater arts and puppetry would be appropriate here.

SONGS THAT HELPED BUILD AMERICA Suggested introduction

Today we have a special musical program all about America. Our presenter, Mr. Bob Conrad visits hundreds of schools each year . He uses music, puppets, and ventriloquism to show us that learning about history and geography can be fun.

Let us have a warm welcome for Bob Conrad and Songs That Helped Build America.