



## The American Revolution 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 simply 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 American Revolution

**Philadelphia (1776)** The show depicts the major events that led up the Revolution including the taxes imposed after the French and Indian War. The participants then re-enact the March 5, 1770 Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party of 1773 and Paul Revere's historic ride to Lexington where the first shot of the Revolution was fired. 18th Century values and customs are also demonstrated, including an aristocratic formal dance led by the character and performed by students and teachers.



### Abigail Datchery

Miss Datchery is a fictitious character patterned after the colonial aristocracy in the late 18th Century. Her exquisite custom made dress is complete with a bum-roll and farthingale to extend the skirt. She also sports a matching hat and powdered wig, as was the fashion of the colonial period.

### Performance Objectives

To create a supportive environment wherein students' participation results in a positive, self-affirming experience that allows them to co-create the show with the character by

- Enabling students to begin to think like a colonist
- Recreating injustices that were thrust upon the colonists before the war
- Creating a dialogue with students (as though they were colonists) and allowing them to respond to the situations as they develop



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### Pre-Show Preparation

Familiarize students with key patriots and their contributions, such as

- Samuel Adams
- John Hancock
- Benjamin Franklin
- Thomas Jefferson
- John Adams
- Thomas Paine
- George Washington
- Paul Revere

Discuss how King George III influenced the lives of those living in the colonies

- 1764 Sugar Tax
- 1765 Quartering Act
- 1765 Stamp Tax
- 1767 Townsend Act

Discuss how unlikely it would be for the colonists to win the war

### Post-Show Activities

- Have students set up a mock town meeting with half the townspeople siding with the revolutionaries and half remaining loyal to the crown
- Have each student choose an occupation/trade and then debate whether it is in their best interest to go to war with the most powerful country on Earth
- Let each student describe what life would be like for them if the colonists had lost

### 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.

