

Jack's Great American Road Trip

About the Play

Pack your bags as Jack takes the audience on one incredible road trip! Learn important lessons about the geography of our country. Through Jack's resiliency and determination we encounter the incredible variety of people and places that make up America! From the majestic beauty of the Rocky Mountains to the Mississippi Delta; from the Glaciers of Alaska to the Florida Everglades, follow Jack and learn what makes America such a unique and amazing place!



NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

- The United States is made up of **50** states, **1** district (DC) and **5** inhabited territories (Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa!)
- The United States of America has **59** National Parks.
- Yellowstone was the first of these parks, and it was founded in **1872**.
- There are **117** national monuments in the United States.
- **2016** was the **100th** anniversary of the National Parks Service.
- The state of California has **9** national parks! That's more than any other state!

States to listen for!

Alaska

Florida

Colorado

Massachusetts

Michigan

Virginia

Washington DC

Texas

North Carolina

California

Hawaii

Mississippi



Mount Rushmore in South Dakota shows the faces of four US presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln.



The Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming was the first historic site to be named a national monument, by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906.

Student Activities

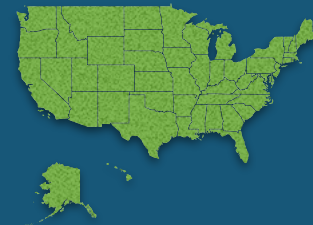
Paper Plate States!

Have your students select a state out of a bag with all 50 states inside! Design and decorate a paper-plate presentation! Put important facts on there like the capital, influential people, weather conditions, landmarks and more! Share your projects the next day!



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) If you could travel anywhere in the United States, where would you go? Why?
- 2) What is your favorite place you have ever traveled within the US?
- 3) What are some of the landmarks, parks, or monuments in your community? In your state?
- 4) Which National Park would you like to most visit? Why?
- 5) Why is it important to have National Parks?



SPOTLIGHT: THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Great Smoky Mountains National Parks - Located in the states of North Carolina and Tennessee, the Great Smoky Mountains are the most visited national park in the United States.



Yellowstone National Park - Yellowstone became the first National Park in the world in 1872, and has over 3 million visitors a year!! Located in the states of Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho, it is known for its geysers and beautiful wildlife such as bears, wolves, and elk.

Everglades National Park - The Everglades National Park is located in Florida, and is home to lots of rare and endangered species such as the manatee, the American crocodile, and the Florida panther.



Famous Parks & Places

Across America!!

Alabama- The Civil Rights Memorial
Alaska- Denali State Park
Arizona- The Grand Canyon
Arkansas- The Ozark Folk Center
California- The Golden Gate Bridge
Colorado- Pike's Peak
Connecticut- Mystic Seaport
Delaware- New Castle Historic District
Florida- The Kennedy Space Center
Georgia- Martin Luther King, Jr National Historic Site
Hawaii- Pearl Harbor
Idaho- Sacajawea's Birthplace
Illinois- Abraham Lincoln Home
Indiana- Duck Creek Aquaduct
Iowa- The Bridges of Madison County
Kansas- Dodge City
Kentucky- Mammoth Cave National Park
Louisiana- Steamboat Natchez
Maine- Portland Observatory
Maryland- Edgar Allan Poe House
Massachusetts- The Freedom Trail
Michigan- Henry Ford Museum
Minnesota- F. Scott Fitzgerald House
Mississippi- Vicksburg National Military Park
Missouri- Gateway Arch
Montana- Little Bighorn Battlefield
Nebraska- Chimney Rock
Nevada- The Hoover Dam
New Hampshire- Robert Frost Homestead
New Jersey- George Washington Hermitage
New Mexico- Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument
New York- The Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island
North Carolina- Wright Brothers Memorial
North Dakota- Frontier Village
Ohio- Underground Railroad & Freedom Center
Oklahoma- Robbers Cave
Oregon- Mount Hood Railway
Pennsylvania- Liberty Bell
Rhode Island- Westminster Arcade
South Carolina- Fort Sumter
South Dakota- Mount Rushmore
Tennessee- The Great Smoky Mountains
Texas- The Alamo
Utah- Olympic Park
Vermont- Shelburne Museum
Virginia- Colonial Williamsburg
Washington- Space Needle
West Virginia- Lost World Caverns
Wisconsin- Wisconsin Dells
Wyoming- Yellowstone National Park



Where in the United States have you visited??

Where would you like to visit in the future??

Can you find these places on the US map??

- **What state are you in? Can you research and find 5 fun facts about your state? Keep sharing until every fact has been heard!**
- **Find out if anyone in the class has lived in a different state. What is similar? What is different?**



YOU CAN DO THIS TOO!

Where to start: All of our actors started out playing and telling stories when they were young -then they decided to study acting in school. Now they are pros! Here are some ways you can start doing theatre right away!

In School! Does your school have plays or musical performances? This is a great place to start.

In Your Community! Many towns have community theaters or local acting groups. See if you can try out!

Start Something! If your school doesn't have a drama club or a theatre club, talk to your favorite teacher about how you might be able to start one.

At Home! Get together with friends, cousins, brothers and sisters and make your own play. You can make up plays based on your favorite books and stories. Invite family and friends to see your performance.

***Try your best at new things! There are lots of jobs in the theatre besides acting. There are people who paint the sets, make costumes, write plays and more. Get the most out of your art, music and English classes & you could be a theatre pro!**

Before, During and After the Play...



BEFORE YOU SEE THE PLAY...

Attending the theatre is very different from watching TV or going to the movies. For one thing, the actors are real people who are performing right then and there. They can see and hear everything that happens in the audience. Because of this, YOU are an important part of the play and its important to do your job as an audience member well. Here are some tips before you see the play.

1. Please be quiet and respectful so everyone else around you can hear and see what is happening on stage and so the actors can do their job.
2. The actors may ask you to participate. Don't be afraid to respond, ask a question or volunteer!
3. Keep your hands to yourself and your eyes up front.
4. If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.
5. Have fun! Enjoy yourself!



After seeing the Play...

Write your own review of the play! A review is a way of telling your thoughts about a play, movie or book. Consider the following when you are writing your review.

What was your favorite part? Who was your favorite character? Can you summarize the play in your own words? If you had written this play, would you have done anything different? Would you recommend this play to a friend? Name one new thing you learned from watching this play.

FUN FACTS ABOUT THEATRE!

After a play is over and everyone goes home, there is always a light left on backstage. It's called a ghost light!

The oldest play that is still around was written by an Ancient Greek named Aeschylus. It's almost 2500 years old!

The longest performance on stage ever was over 23 hours long! It happened in New Jersey in 2010.

William Shakespeare is a famous playwright. He wrote 37 plays and is still quoted by many people. There are 157 million google pages that mention him-- the most of any famous person ever!

In theatre, it's considered bad luck to tell an actor, "Good luck" before a performance. Instead, you're supposed to say, "Break a leg!"



Everything about the Theatre!



A mini-van is our hip and favored mode of transportation for touring the country!

...
THEATRE VOCABULARY!

Actor: The people on-stage performing the play.

Backdrop: The background for the play.

Props: Anything that an actor holds while on-stage—a cane, book or rubber chicken.

Downstage: the area closest to the audience a long time ago stage were built at angles.

Upstage: The area away from the audience, like the back wall of the a stage.

Director: The person who told the actors where to go while they were on-stage and helped them create the characters they would play.

Facts about us!

1. Did you know we're owned by an Emmy winning actor?
2. Our actors average 1,000 miles a week traveling the country to entertain young audiences.
3. Our programs have been seen in almost every corner of the country and around the world.
4. We watch over 1200 actors a season audition, before we cast our season.
5. We offer dozens and dozens different shows a season from Black History to anti-bullying and literary classics.
6. We toured Moscow with performances of our Aesop's Fables.
7. We're based in Asheville, NC.



ABOUT US!

Founded in 2003, Bright Star Theatre tours the nation offering high quality, affordable programs to every imaginable venue. We've had countless engagements at the National Theatre, toured Germany and Russia, and are so grateful to be in your very school today!

Costumes: The wigs, clothing and glasses that the actors wore to help flush out their characters .

Auditions: How an actor gets a role is by auditioning, they may have to interview, pretend to be a character from the play, read something from it, etc.

Set Designer: The person who decided what should be on the background and who painted or created it.

Were there other terms that came up in the show or from the experience of seeing the live play that you'd like to learn more about?



The Process of a Play:

1. Actors audition
2. Directors cast the show (that means they choose actors)
3. The directors and actors rehearse the play (that means they practice it).
4. A team of people works on building the set, costumes and props.
5. The play opens (that means it is performed for the first time)!

Were there other terms that came from the experience of seeing the live play that you'd like to learn more about?

BRIGHT STAR THEATRE

Bright Star Touring Theatre performs across the country from Boston to Burbank and virtually every school, museum, theatre, community event in between. Each season our shows run the gamut from Black History to anti-bullying, from literary classics to biographical shows. Our shows are available throughout the year for any event in any part of the world.

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Learn more about this show, this company & our whole season:

www.brightstartheatre.com

JACK'S GREAT AMERICAN ROAD TRIP

Made its Debut in September 2017
National Tour

We want every show to be special and remarkable for our audience. Please feel free to connect with us at anytime to tell us about your experience: