

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit ... of English Fluency

NJTESOL Conference
May 19-20, 2009
Susan DePhilippis, sdephili@atlantic.edu
Judith Otterburn-Martinez, jotterbur@atlantic.edu
Assistant Professors of ESL
Atlantic Cape Community College

Songs:

America, by Reverend Samuel F. Smith

My country, 'tis of Thee, Sweet Land of Liberty Of thee I sing; Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrims' pride, From every mountain side Let Freedom ring.

America the Beautiful, lyrics by Katharine Lee Bates

O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain, For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed his grace on thee And crown thy good with brotherhood From sea to shining sea!

Dixie, by Daniel Decatur Emmett

Oh, I wish I was in the land of cotton,
Old times there are not forgotten, (*Alt Original*: Cinnamon seed and sandy bottom,)
Look away, look away, look away Dixie Land.

God Bless America, by Irving Berlin

God Bless America, Land that I love. Stand beside her, and guide her Thru the night with a light from above. From the mountains, to the prairies, To the oceans, white with foam God bless America, My home sweet home.

Yankee Doodle Dandy, by George Cohan

I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy, A Yankee Doodle, do or die, A real live nephew of my Uncle Sam, Born on the Fourth of July

Francis Scott Key wrote the poem, *Defense of Fort McHenry*, while witnessing its defense from a British ship in Baltimore's harbor (1814). It was later put to an established tune and called the *Star Spangled Banner*. Congress made it the U.S. National Anthem in 1931.

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light, What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming? Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight, O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming? And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there. O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Publications:

Political cartoons, articles, notices in Ben Franklin's *Pennsylvania Gazette* and *Poor Richard's Almanack*
Any Revolutionary Era newspapers

The Mayflower Compact

The Magna Carta

The Declaration of Independence

Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* and *The American Crisis*

The Articles of Confederation, later strengthened into the *U.S. Constitution* with the *Bill of Rights*

The Federalist Papers (85 essays) by Hamilton, Madison, and Jay

Patrick Henry's speeches

Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Concord Hymn*
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's *Paul Revere's Ride* (<http://www.paulreverehouse.org/>)
Correspondence between Jefferson and (John) Adams, John Adams and his wife Abigail
The poems, plays and writings of Francis Hopkinson, especially *The Battle of the Kegs*

Websites:

www.honorthenjsigners.com (presenter's website – adding more this summer, integrates ESL)
Go to the links page for several Revolutionary War/educational site links, especially associated with NJ

<http://videos.howstuffworks.com/hsw/23643-the-american-revolution-taxation-and-representation-video.htm>

Short, highly visual, slow and clearly articulated text explaining basic concepts of America's founding. With text or materials added, they could be a great listening/reading exercise.

www.history.org

Official Colonial Williamsburg (VA) site

www.mountvernon.org

Official site for Mount Vernon (VA), George Washington's estate

www.nps.gov

National Park Service official website where there are podcasts, information, virtual tours, etc. related to Revolutionary Era sites under its direction.

<http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/aa>

The Library of Congress where Americans and our history are presented thematically.

<http://www.neh.gov/projects/landmarks-school.html> (K-12 instructors)

<http://www.neh.gov/projects/landmarks-college.html> (Community College professors)

Week-long summer sessions (grant funded) at national historic sites to study/interact with teachers of other disciplines to apply to your curriculum and classroom instruction. *NOT just for history teachers!*

Events:

1492 ***The Nina, The Pinta, and the Santa Maria; Christopher Columbus***

These refer to Columbus's discovery of America while trying to find a trade route to India.

1513 ***Fountain of youth*** Juan Ponce de Leon came to Florida in search of this.

1607 ***Captain John Smith, Jamestown, Pocahontas*** These are some of the people and events at the first permanent English settlement in America. The first black slaves arrive in America at Jamestown in 1619.

1620 ***The Mayflower, The Pilgrims, Plymouth Rock, The Plymouth Colony, The First Thanksgiving, The Mayflower Compact*** (constitution)

These refer to the Puritans, English settlers who came to America for religious freedom.

1692-1697 ***The Salem Witch Trials, "going on a witch hunt"*** "Witches" in Salem, MA were tried and killed for supposed witchcraft, but the evidence was very weak.

1760s+ ***"Taxation without representation is tyranny"*** This prized right of representation in Parliament by English law (from the Magna Carta) was denied the colonists, was a major precursor to the war, and was an offense listed in the Declaration.

1760s+ ***"Don't tread on me"*** Ben Franklin first wrote in his Pennsylvania Gazette in 1751 to send rattlesnakes to England in response to their sending convicted felons to the colonies. He then created the first political cartoon in the colonies in 1754 featuring a cut up snake symbolizing the colonies (Join, or Die) that was popularly received throughout America. Thereafter, snakes were on everything – newspaper headings, banners, flags, buttons, etc.

1770s ***"I have not yet begun to fight!"*** This was the response of American Admiral John Paul Jones when the British opposing him on their ship asked if he was surrendering since his was expected to sink.

1770 ***Boston Massacre*** Provoked by an angry crowd, British troops fired upon townspeople, killing five. After this event, more colonists wanted independence.

1773 ***Boston Tea Party*** Colonists protested British tax on tea by dumping a ship's full cargo of tea in Boston Harbor dressed as Native Americans. Other "parties" were held in New Jersey, Maryland, and South Carolina thereafter.

April 19, 1775 ***(Battle of) Lexington and Concord, The Minutemen***
"The shot heard round the world" (in Ralph Waldo Emerson's poem)
"The British are coming! The British are coming!"
"One if by land, and two if by sea"*
"... the midnight ride of Paul Revere"*

British soldiers occupying Boston marched to outlying areas to seize ammunition. Along the road, the soldiers skirmished with colonists. It's the first battle of the Revolutionary War, and the colonists lost. Annually, it's re-enacted with the running of the Boston Marathon on the same day. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem *Paul Revere's Ride* immortalized it.*

June 1775 ***"Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes."*** American officer, William Prescott, ordered his men during the Battle of Bunker Hill when they were low on gun powder.

1776 ***"... give me liberty or give me death!"*** Patrick Henry was a greatly revered legislator and orator from Virginia. He gave this speech to urge others to vote for independence from England.

1776 ***"When in the course of human events", "We hold these truths to be self-evident"***
"all men are created equal", "endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights"
"life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness", Put your "John Hancock" (signature)

These all refer to the Declaration of Independence, its wording or the people who signed it.

1776 ***Common Sense*** by Thomas Paine Written for everyone, it made the case for declaring independence and won many hesitant colonists to that point of view.

1777+ ***"These are the times that try men's souls ..."***
"The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot ..."

These are the words of Thomas Paine in his pamphlets, *The American Crisis*.

1777-1778 ***Valley Forge*** George Washington and his Continental Army spent a very bitter winter here near Philadelphia. While many deserted or suffered from the cold and lack of supplies, the troops trained in European soldiering under Baron von Steuben.

1776 ***"I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country."*** Nathan Hale was an American soldier and spy who was captured and hanged by the British. It is believed he said this just before his execution.

1776+ ***Founding Fathers, the thirteen colonies become thirteen states***

These colonists establish the USA; most signed the Declaration of Independence and helped draft the US Constitution. The original 13 colonies are CT, DE, GA, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, NC, PA, RI, SC, VA.

1776+ **Betsy Ross, *The Stars and Stripes, Old Glory*** Betsy Ross is believed to have sewn the first American flag which is still referred to as “the stars and stripes” today.

1777 ***The Battle of Saratoga*** After the Americans won this battle in Upstate NY, the French started sending aid the following year – a turning point in the war.

1780 ***Benedict Arnold*** This refers to the American general who was a traitor to the colonists’ cause, and escaped before being captured and punished.

1781 ***Yorktown*** The coastal town in Virginia where George Washington defeated General Cornwallis, ending the Revolutionary War and establishing the USA.

Late 1780s ***The Federalist Papers*** This is a series of 85 essays urging the voters of NY to adopt the US Constitution, and written by Hamilton, Madison, and Jay.

1791 ***“We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union”***
This is the beginning of the Preamble of the US Constitution.

1791 ***Bill of Rights*** These are the first 10 amendments of the US Constitution that guarantee individual rights. Most states wouldn’t sign onto the agreement – especially a strong federal government – without this provision.

1790s ***Whisky Rebellion*** 100s of Pennsylvanians protested a tax on homemade liquor. Federal troops stopped it – the first test of whether the federal government could enforce its laws.

1799 ***Father of his country***
“First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen” George Washington was eulogized (adopted by Congress) as such upon his death.

After 1799 ***“I cannot tell a lie.”*** In his zeal to eulogize Washington, a biographer made up this statement and attributed it to Washington as an example of his honesty when as a child, he told his father he had chopped down a cherry tree.

1812-1815 ***War of 1812*** The British and Americans fought a “second war for independence”. British violations of American shipping rights ignited this war. The White House and other prominent buildings in Washington, DC were burned. Dolley Madison, First Lady at the time, famously saved historic documents and Washington’s portrait before fleeing the White House.

Early 1800s ***Louisiana Purchase, Lewis & Clark, Sacajawea*** Thomas Jefferson as the 3rd President bought the Louisiana Territory and more than doubling the size of the USA while safeguarding it from European neighbors. He had Meriwether Lewis and William Clark explore it and report back its resources. Sacajawea was their Indian guide.

Sources of Songs & Timeline Information:

Hirsch, Jr., E.D., Kett, Joseph F., and James Trefil. *The Dictionary of Cultural Literacy*. 2nd ed. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1993. 245-299.

Knauer, Kelly, ed. *America, An Illustrated History*. New York: Time Books, 2007. iv-39.

<http://www.scoutsongs.com/categories/patriotic-songs.html>

<http://www.foundingfathers.info/stories/gadsden.html>