

Program Name: Colonial Legacy

Artist: Dianne Moran

Special Requirements:

Large cleared space; long table for display items

Special Points of Interest:

Jamestown colonists were not the first to venture to the new world. There were others, including those who came and settled St. Augustine, Florida in the mid 1500s.

Performance Description

Not everything “colonial” happened on our eastern seaboard. St. Louis was actually a colony of both France and Spain before the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Dressed in character from the colonial period, Dianne Moran will engage students as though they are in a school 400 years ago. Through improvisational dialogue, students will learn how strict the first Americans could be.

Stepping from character, Dianne will share reasons why colonists came to the New World, their first encounter with Native Americans who would try saving them from starvation, and other facts of our early history. Everyday life will be revealed as two students

volunteer to be dressed in period clothes. Each will have a bag with objects which will be identified and shared with the audience.

Chouteau, one of St. Louis’ founding fathers, will be discussed as well as his ties with Kansas City, where he established a trading post long ago. An old story from the first colonials will be told, and a live creature from the story will be shown. Students will be encouraged to answer Dianne’s questions and ask some of their own.



Educational Objectives & Standards

Students will:

- learn what historical incidents occurred to bring about the establishment of Jamestown
- understand the conflict between the colonists, the Native Americans, and the King of England

Standards addressed:

- Knows major physical and human features of places as they are represented on maps and globes
- Understands daily life of a farm family from long ago (e.g., work, clothing, tools, food, and food production in the early 1800s)

Artist Bio: Dianne Moran



List of Resources:

Books:

Peterson, Charles E. *Colonial St. Louis: Building a Creole Capital*; Patrice Press, 2001. ISBN: 1880397439

Earle, Alice. *Child Life in Colonial Days*; Berkshire House Publishers. ISBN: 0025346709

St. John de Crevecoeur, J. Hector. *Letters from an American Farmer*; Oxford University Press, 1999. ISBN: 0192838989

Videos:

Liberty! The American Revolution, Dir. Ellen Hovde. Perf. Philip Seymour Hoffman and James Murtaugh. PBS Home Video, 1997.

The Crossing, Dir. Robert Harmon. Perf. Jeff Daniels and Roger Rees. A&E Videos, 2000.

Contact KCYA for more information about this and other programs

816.531.4022
KCYA.org

Dianne Moran is an award-winning storyteller who has worked with audiences for 35 years as a folklorist/naturalist. She lives in the Missouri Ozarks where she owns *Earth Ways Farm*, an environmental camp. Her programs may include Mt. Dulcimer and relics, as well as her live animals which serve as metaphors for her stories.

Dianne performs *Chautauqua* programs as a Civil War and Lewis & Clark scholar throughout the Midwest. She has produced numerous CDs, tapes

and videos of her living histories.

Her programs receive funding from the Missouri Arts Council, Missouri Humanities Council, and received the *Program Award for Artistic Excellence and Educational Effectiveness* from Young Audiences of St. Louis. Dianne has performed for hundreds of school programs, workshops, and residencies, making her a curriculum regular for thousands of school children in Missouri and throughout the midwest.

Vocabulary

Chemise: an undergarment worn by women that served as a blouse, a slip, and a night gown

Chamber pot: an under the bed covered pot for use as a night toilet

Chatelaine: a beautiful silver clip worn at the waist with several hanging chains to which every day items were attached (a woman's item)

Drawers: ladies' colonial underwear

Fall front trousers: men and boys' pants which buttoned in the front, had a

draw string in back, and came to the knees

Horn Book: the first colonial school book made of printed paper with Bible verse on one side and the ABCs on the other. Printed paper was mounted on a small wooden board with a handle. The printed paper was protected by clear sheets of cow horn sheath on both sides.

Tow, flint and steel, charred cloth: simple items used to make primitive fire

Post-Performance Activities

1. Assign students to choose a character from the colonial period and write about them. Ask them to be prepared to show differences and likenesses of the character and the student giving the report.
2. Contact the Chouteau Society at 913-341-7372. They offer an insightful brochure titled "A Tour of Old French Kansas City", directing travelers to 11 vantage points where signage has been placed to interpret French Kansas City in the early 1700s to mid 1800s.

