



**Professor Time: American Revolution  
Study Guide**

**Sean Driscoll / Professor Time  
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## **Artist/Ensemble Information**

Artist/Ensemble Name: Sean Driscoll (Professor Time)

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For: K- 5th grades

## **Program Description**

"The American Revolution: The Birth Of A Nation"

Professor Time is off to Colonial America to find out about the birth of our nation. Students find out what sparked the American Revolution and hear stories first hand from George Washington and Betsy Ross. The stories teach them about events leading up to the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the formation of our government. Students watch history come alive on a giant video with animated characters and historical images. The audience participates in interactive comedy skits to prepare them for the time travel adventure. At the end of the show, children test their knowledge and win prizes while playing a game similar to "Wheel of Fortune."

## **Technical Requirements**

2 grounded outlets, 1 chair, one table 6'X2', performance space 25'X 25' with a clean floor.

## **Set Description**

The set includes a giant interactive video screen with animated characters and images from the past that make history come alive. There is a 10' X 10' time machine complete with sound effects, lights and fog, a game show section with a 6' game wheel, lights and sound effects, and the professor's lab with equipment.

### **Artist Bio**

Mr. Driscoll performs hundreds of shows throughout the United States each year in theater, television, school, concert and festival settings. He has performed educational programs since the age of 15 for over thirty years. His performances combine technology, video, music, animation, magic and theater into unusual theatrical experiences.

In addition, Sean conducts numerous Artists in Residency programs in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. During these residencies he develops Audio CDs and CD Roms with students. Sean takes students through the process of creating scripts, developing acting skills, recording voice-overs and sound effects. He brings a complete recording studio to the school so children may experience the recording process first hand.

He has also released several Audio CDs including, “Critter Tales” (Storytelling.) and “Kindred Spirits” (Classical Guitar). His stories have been heard throughout the world on the World Space Radio Network and the Internet.

### **Background On Art Form**

Mr. Driscoll is a pioneer in children’s educational performances and is one of the first performers in the world to combine animation, video, music and live theater into an educational show. He began his studies in classical music at the age of six. Throughout high school and college, he studied composition and mastered the art of theatrical and musical performance. After college, Mr. Driscoll began teaching at Armstrong Atlantic University. It was during his time as a college professor that he started teaching himself video editing and animation techniques. He now owns Storymaker Studios in Savannah, GA where he and his team of artists produce animated characters for live performances and Audio CDs of music and storytelling.

### **Prepare (Pre-performance)**

#### **Teachers please read this to your students.**

Today we are going on a Time Traveling adventure with whacky Professor Time to discover more about the American Revolution. Our performer is an actor, writer, and musician who combines theater, music, video and animation into an unusual performance. Be prepared to laugh and learn as we interact with him playing games, performing skits and making music.

**Warm up questions to set the stage for engaging students.**

1. What would America be like today if we had not fought and won the American Revolution?
2. Why did American Colonies fight the Revolution?
3. Where was the American Revolutionary War fought?
4. What did the Declaration of Independence say and why is it so important to Americans today?
5. The United States Constitution set up a form of self-ruling government for our new nation called a Democracy. This Democracy was to be, “Of the people and by the people.” It had three branches or parts. Name the three branches of our Democracy.
6. Name two ways we can have a voice in our government and which branches of government help us to do that.

**Teachers please have students visit [www.professortime.com](http://www.professortime.com) to play games and puzzles to prepare for the shows!**

**Post performance activity suggestions.**

*Multicultural:* Organize an American Colony Day and have kids dress up in costumes of famous characters and reenact related historical events. Students can also make and play games from that period. See - <http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/specialreport13colonies.htm> for more ideas.

*Arts:* Have students examine works of art from the American Colonial period.

*Science:* Create a mock solar system with Styrofoam balls and string to demonstrate the motion of the planets and moon and discuss the motion of the planets and their effect on how we tell time. Build a sundial and place it in the schoolyard and observe the movement of the sun in the sky as it moves across the sundial.

*Math:* Create a game show with questions about the measurement of time. For example: How many seconds are there in a day, year or month? If it is 2:00 in London, England what time is it in Peking, China?

*History & Social Science:* Organize a reenactment of the signing of the Declaration of Independence with the students. Create a time line of historical events during the American Revolution around your classroom. Map out the colonies and mark each relevant battle between the British and the Americans. Be sure to include the date of the event.

*Music:* Listen to examples of music from the American Colonies. Learn a song to perform at American Colony day.

### **Vocabulary**

Sun Dial - An instrument that looks much like a clock face but uses the sun's shadow to measure the passage of time.

Hour Glass - A device used during the ancient times throughout the Renaissance in which time is measured by an exact amount of sand passing through an opening between two glass bulbs.

Albert Einstein – Physicist who determined the true nature of time and space and is best known for his theory of relativity.

George Washington - First president of the United States and general of the colonial army during the American Revolution.

Thomas Jefferson – Statesman and politician that lived during the American Revolution who is known as the author of the Declaration of Independence.

Betsy Ross – Woman known as the first person to sew the American Flag.

King George III- The King of England during the American Revolution.

Sons of Liberty – A secret organization formed in the American colonies to protest The British actions and occupancy.

Red Coats – Nickname for British soldiers in America at the time of the American Revolution.

Crispus Attucks – Africa-American slave that escaped captivity and was later killed during the Boston Massacre.

Boston Massacre - 1770, pre-Revolutionary incident growing out of the resentment against the British troops sent to Boston to maintain order and to enforce the [Townshend Acts](#). The troops, constantly tormented by gangs, finally (Mar. 5, 1770) fired into a rioting crowd and killed five men.

Declaration of Independence - Document written by Thomas Jefferson declaring the American Colonies independent of England, a sovereign nation.

Constitution – Document written by the founding fathers of the United States that defines the rights of the people and the form of government to be practiced by Americans in their newly formed nation.

Democracy – Government by the people and for the people.

Boston Tea Party - Uprising of colonists objecting to the British taxation of imported goods like tea, coffee and paper. A group of men, known as "The Sons of Liberty," dressed up as Indians and broke open tea crates into the Boston Harbor creating outrage with the British government.

Stamp Act Of 1765 - was the fourth **Stamp Act** to be passed by the **British Parliament** and required all legal documents, permits, commercial contracts, newspapers, pamphlets, and playing cards in the **American colonies** to carry a **tax stamp**. The Act was enacted in order to defray the cost of maintaining the military presence protecting the colonies.

Quartering Act – Decree passed down by the British government to force colonists to house and feed British Soldiers in exchange for military protection from invading forces.

Tea Act of 1773 - Gave a monopoly on tea sales to the British company "The East India Company." The colonists were being forced to buy tea only from the English. But the American colonists saw this law as yet another means of "taxation without representation" because it meant that they couldn't buy tea from anyone else (including other colonial merchants) without spending a lot more money. Their response was to refuse to unload the tea from the ships. This was the situation in Boston that led to the Boston Tea Party.

### **Resources for Teachers & Students**

#### **Websites**

<http://www.professortime.com/>

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/ontime/>

<http://bensguide.gpo.gov/k-2/nation/index.html>

<http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/>

[http://www.mce.k12tn.net/revolutionary\\_war/american\\_revolution.htm](http://www.mce.k12tn.net/revolutionary_war/american_revolution.htm)

<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/ushistory/13colonies1.htm><http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/specialreport13colonies.htm>

<http://www.americasstory.com/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/colonial>

#### **Books**

"A Choice Of Sundials"

By Winthrop W. Dolan 1975

4th-5th Grades

"The Reasons For The Seasons"

By Gail Gibbons 1995  
2nd - 3rd Grades

“Keeping Time”  
By Franklin M. Branley 1993  
4th - 5th Grades

“Clocks And Time” 1982  
By Ed Catherall  
3rd - 5th Grades

“It’s Science! Time”  
By Salley Hewitt 1999  
3rd - 4th Grades

“The Book Of The Clock”  
By Margret Tarrant 1986  
K- 2nd Grades

“Big Time Bears”  
By Stephen Krensky 1989  
K- 2nd Grades

“Liberty! How the Revolutionary War Began”  
Lucille Recht Penner  
3-5<sup>th</sup> Grades

“Meet Benjamin Franklin”  
Landmark Random House  
2-5<sup>th</sup> Grades

“Meet George Washington”  
Landmark Random House  
2-5<sup>th</sup> Grades

“Meet Thomas Jefferson”  
Landmark Random House  
2-5<sup>th</sup> Grades

“The American Revolution for Kids”  
By Janis Herbert  
3<sup>rd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> grade

### **Professor Time Assessment Questions**

Directions. Answer the following multiple choice and discussion questions to see what you have learned from Professor Time's performance.

Last Name:

First Name:

School:

Teacher's Name:

1. Who is known as the author of Declaration of Independence?

- Benjamin Franklin
- George Washington
- Aretha Franklin
- Thomas Jefferson

2. Who was a general of the American Colonies' Army and our first president?

- Thomas Jefferson
- George Washington
- George W. Bush
- Albert Einstein

3. What day did the American Revolutionary War begin on? The first shot fired that began the American Revolutionary War is known as?

- April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1775, The shot that was heard around the world.
- July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776, The blast from the past.
- December 31, 1999, The big parting shot
- October 31, 1929, A cheap shot

4. Why did the American Colonies fight the Revolutionary War?

- To free the slaves.
- So women could have the right to vote
- To be free from England and to have a say where tax money would be spent.
- To have free pizza and tea at lunch

5. Where was the American Revolutionary War fought?

- England
- Japan
- Europe
- The United States of America

6. What does the Declaration of Independence say and why is it so important?



7. What was England's King George III's reaction to the Boston Tea Party?

8. Would you have fought for your freedom during the American Revolution and why?

9. What would America be like if the American colonists had lost the Revolutionary War?

10. Why were the American Colonists so angry with the British?

### Professor Time Assessment Questions Answers

Directions. Answer the following multiple choice and discussion questions to see what you have learned from Professor Time's performance.

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- So women could have the right to vote
- To be free from England and to have a say where tax money would be spent.
- To have free pizza and tea.

5. Where was the American Revolutionary War fought?

- England
- Japan
- Europe
- The United States of America

6. What does the Declaration of Independence say and why is that so important? That we as Americans are free from English rule. That all men are created equal and have a right to be free and seek happiness. That whenever a government denies these rights to its people, it is the responsibility of its citizens to overthrow its government and set up new government of self rule to pursue these rights. These are the basic principles of our country.

7. What was England's King George III's reaction to the Boston Tea Party? "It will come to blows" said King George III when he heard of the Boston Tea Party and it did. By saying, "blows" he meant war.

8. Would you have fought for your freedom during the American Revolution and why? Yes, I would have fought for my freedom. Because, I would want all Americans to be free. And I believe that everyone has the right to live in a democracy or in a country which is ruled by its own people.

9. What would America be like if the American colonists had lost the Revolutionary War? We as American Citizens would not have the right to determine what laws we wish to be ruled under. The government of England would decide what laws we are to live by.

10. Why were the American Colonists so angry with the British? The British considered the Colonists substandard citizens of England. Taxes paid by the colonists were sent to the King and not used to help the Colonists better their own communities. The King of England forced us to house English soldiers in times of peace without our consent. The government of England also cut off trade with the rest of the world from England and forced us to only trade with English companies.

