



## ***Hats off to America!***

*Hold on to your hat, we are on our way to tour tall tales of the USA. Mike Fink, Paul Bunyan, and Pecos Bill too, will be taking hats off to the red white and blue. Join us for a sampling of Americana from these patriotic tales to an assortment of real whoppers.*

### ***Stories - To share together or read alone***

Aliki. ***The Story of Johnny Appleseed.***

Retells the story of John Chapman whose devotion to planting apple trees made him a legendary figure in American history. Use here or in the food section. Also available in Spanish as *Historia De Johnny Appleseed* (Econo-Clad Books, I SBN 0613069897).

Interest Level: PreK - Grade 3

Catrow, David. ***We the Kids.***

Artist and political cartoonist David Catrow wonderfully illustrates this version of the Preamble to the Constitution. Even the foreword is great to read aloud. Read this book and then have children read or recite the preamble and share what it means to them.

Interest Level: All ages

Cuyler, Margery. ***That's Good! That's Bad! In the Grand Canyon.***

A small boy has a series of wild adventures as he explores the Grand Canyon. David Catrow's outrageous pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations add slapstick humor. Present as a flip story with a good adventure and then a bad turn presented.

Interest Level: PreK - Grade 4



Dingwell, Cindy. ***Happy Birthday America!***

This book is full of programming ideas including decorating tips, activities and reproducible puzzles. Use for ideas when planning the American program.

Interest Level: Professional Resource

Drummond, Allan. ***Casey Jones.***

Drummond retells the legend of locomotive engineer John Luther "Casey" Jones. Bring this story to life using lots of audience participation such as train noises, shouts and flag waving.

Interest Level: K-4

Johnston, Tony. ***Bigfoot Cinderrrrrella.***

A retelling of the Cinderella story featuring Bigfoot characters in an old-growth forest. Tell this story using creative dramatics and big foot props. Have a Bigfoot race (see games section of this chapter) as a follow-up.

Interest Level: K-4

Kellogg, Steven. ***Paul Bunyan.***

A retelling of the tall tale of Paul Bunyan, the lumberjack with super strength in his supersized body. Read aloud and enjoy the paintings. Compare the illustrations of Paul Bunyan here with how Flyp is dressed on the reading log.

Interest Level: K - Grade 4

Kellogg, Steven. ***Pecos Bill: A Tall Tale.***

Yanked from his family's wagon by a giant Texas trout, Bill has a series of adventures which make him a legend. Don't miss his run-ins with a rattlesnake, the Hell's Gulch Gang and the beautiful Slewfoot Sue. Present as a rolling story on a backdrop. Also, look for Kellogg's versions of *Johnny Appleseed* and *Paul Bunyan*. Also available in Spanish as *Pecos Bill: Un Cuento Fantastico* (ISBN 068814036X).

Interest Level: K-4



Lewis, Paul Owen. ***Frog Girl.***

Based on the traditions of the Northwest Pacific native people, this engrossing tale warns of the consequences of man manipulating nature. When a young girl travels magically to the underworld of the frogs, she is warned by "Grandmother" that an impending volcano is the consequence of the girl's people stealing frogs from the lake. Read aloud with some Native American instrumental music in the background to help set the mood.

Interest Level: K - Grade 2

Lewison, Wendy Cheyette. ***F is for Flag.***

A perfect book for Flag Day, June 14, or any time of the year. It shows how our American flag means many things to many different people. Read and share the pictures. Follow up with a flag craft.

Interest Level: PreK - Grade 2

Pflomm, Phyllis Noe. ***Chalk in Hand: The Draw and Tell Book.***

Children's librarian Noe has brought together many of her favorite stories. This book contains the draw-and-tell story entitled "Luke Magee and the Indians." Find out who Luke Magee really is by the end of the story. Use a dry erase board to draw the story of "Luke Magee and the Indians."

Interest Level: PreK - Grade 5

Schroeder, Alan. ***The Tale of Willie Monroe.***

This Appalachian recasting of a Japanese folktale will surely remind older children of Paul Bynyan. Schroeder substitutes a strong, old granny and her equally powerful granddaughter instead of the 3 old women in the original. Here, the women coach a real big feller named Willie Monroe to be a wrestler. Andrew Glass's sturdy, slapstick art fits the story nicely. Read and share other tall tales, or have your listeners make up their own.

Interest Level: K - Grade 4



Scillian, Devin. ***A is for America.***

Beautifully illustrated book that poetically tells the story of America from A to Z and from Sea to Shining Sea. Audience participation. Read and then have children come up with their own American things that begin with each letter of the alphabet. Have the group make a mural showing all their ideas.

Interest Level: Preschool - Grade 5

Seymour, Tres. ***Jake Johnson: The Story of a Mule.***

Jake is a stubborn mule who doesn't want to take the fireworks to the Independence Day social. Using the four major scenes in this book, present it as a box story.

Interest Level: K - Grade 4

St. George, Judith. ***So You Want To Be President.***

An informative book about the US Presidents from Washington through Clinton. The illustrations by David Small won the Caldecott Medal in 2001. Present as a play with stick figures representing several of the presidents. Volunteers step forward to read from the back of their stick figure. Paraphrase facts into the first person for each president.

Interest Level: K - Grade 5

Wood, Audrey. ***The Bunyans.***

A new version of the Paul Bunyan tale showing how Paul and his family formed some of America's natural monuments. Create a giant size photo album as a prop. Each page of the photo album is a portrait of a Bunyan family member with a cut-out where the face would be. Volunteers put their face into the opening as part of the story is read. Afterwards, let listeners select the family member they want to be and use either a digital or polaroid camera to take their picture.

Interest Level: K - Grade 3



Ziefert, Harriet. ***Hats Off for the Fourth of July.***

A delightful parade book that keeps you wondering who will come next. This rhythmic book is great for young audiences. Present as a clothesline story. By the end of the story you'll have all the paraders lined up in marching order. Play patriotic music and have the children march along.

Interest Level: PreK - Grade 4

### ***Booktalk - to excite everyone to read***

Borden, Louise. ***America Is.***

This book pays tribute to the variety of people who make America great - farmers, teachers, miners, factory workers, etc.

Interest Level: K-4

Brown, Marc. ***Arthur Meets the President.***

When Arthur wins an essay contest, he gets to go to Washington, DC to read it to the President. Include in a display of patriotic books

Interest Level: K-4

Cohn, Amy L. ***From Sea to Shining Sea: A Treasury of American Folklore and Folk Songs.***

A compilation of more than 140 folk songs, folktales, poems and stories about the people and the history of America.

Interest Level: All ages

Fisher, Leonard Everett. ***Stars and Stripes: Our National Flag.***

The flag that we fly today was preceded by many other versions. Various American flags are shown with brief historical information about each one. Booktalk and have program participants make various historical flags to display in the library. Though out of print, many libraries may have this one in their collection.

Interest Level: K-4



Isaacs, Anne. ***Swamp Angel***.

Swamp Angel wrestles a bear to save the winter supplies of the Tennessee settlers. Share the wonderful illustrations by Paul O. Zelinsky with your listeners. This was a Caldecott honor book in 1995. Zelinsky actually painted directly onto wood to make the illustrations for the book. Ask your local lumber yard for some scrap lumber or plywood. Have them to cut it into 8" x 10" sheets. Sand the edges before using with children. Have your young artists create a scene on the lumber.

Interest Level: K - Grade 4

Levitin, Sonia. ***Nine for California***.

A family travels by stagecoach from Missouri to California. Booktalk using a map of the US to show where the journey starts and ends. Could also be used in the section on the West.

Interest Level: K - Grade 4

Wong, Janet S. ***Apple Pie Fourth of July***.

A Chinese-American daughter balks when her parents plan to sell Chinese food in the family store on the Fourth of July. After your booktalk, serve some of the foods that are talked about in the book. Can also be used in the Food section.

Interest Level: K-4

## ***Crafts and Games - to involve everyone***

### ***Bean Bag Toss Game.***

Divide the group into teams and keep score as they toss bean bags through holes worth 10, 15 or 25 points. Available from Oriental Trading Company, item XS-35/81. The set includes five bean bags and the 16" by 20" wooden Uncle Sam board with netted holes and a pole



which makes the board stand up. -- Or make your own target out of inexpensive building materials. Older kids will want to try their hand at this target game, too.

Interest Level: K - 6

### ***Big Foot Races.***

After reading a Bigfoot story (such as *Bigfoot Cinderrrrrella* by Tony Johnson -- elsewhere in this manual), make the Bigfoot craft and have a fun foot race using the giant feet you have made. To make feet, stuff one brown paper grocery bag with crumpled newspaper. Slip another grocery bag over the open end. Cut a foot-sized hole in the top and slip foot in. Make two per person and you are ready to race.

Interest Level: K-5

### ***Disney's Zoog Genius: Language Arts, History, Geography.***

CD-ROM. Disney's Zoog Genius 2 is a quiz show that delivers a quality curriculum--on the subjects of language arts, history, and geography--with pop culture panache. Play the fast-paced quiz show on this computer game. Mac or PC based. Middle school activities. Turn this into a quiz show with an audience to cheer teams on to victory.

Interest Level: Grades 6-8

### ***Doorhangers.***

Cut a door hanger shape out of blue oaktag. Cut 1/2 inch wide strips of red and white oak tag. Glue red and white strips diagonally onto the blue doorhanger. Cut stars of different sizes from white oak tag and glue them above the diagonal strips. Cut the letters USA out of white oak tag and glue them underneath the diagonal strips. Ellison dies are available for doorhanger, stars and USA letters.

Interest Level: K - Grade 5



***Oregon Trail (5th edition).***

CD-ROM for Mac or PCs. Have a small group play this computer simulation game in which they pretend they are settlers attempting to survive a wagon-train trip out West.

Interest Level: ages 9 - up

***Parade Stick.***

Roll newspaper tightly into a long stick shape and tape it in several places to hold. Wrap white crepe paper over the entire surface of the stick gluing it in place. Cut a 5 inch piece of red crepe paper in half lengthwise and glue it in a striped pattern on top of the white crepe paper. The result is a red and white striped stick. Next cut several 4 foot lengths of blue crepe paper and fold them in half. Tape the folded ends onto the top of your stick. Cut white stars from any kind of lightweight paper and glue them onto the blue crepe paper streamers. Encourage children to wave these at parades they attend. Play a march and have them parade around the room. You can use the star pattern at the Making Friends Web Site, [http://makingfriends.com/parade\\_sticks.htm](http://makingfriends.com/parade_sticks.htm). for this and other crafts.

Interest Level: K - Grade 4

***Patriotic Glasses.***

Cut shape of a pair of glasses out of navy blue oaktag or heavy paper. Cut the letters USA out of red oaktag and glue just the bottom edges of the letters onto the top of the glasses. Cut 2 stars out of white oaktag and glue just the bottom of the stars on either side of the USA letters. Decorate the rest of the glasses' surface with tiny white oaktag stars and red glitter stripes. Ellison dies are available for glasses, USA letters and stars.

Interest Level: K-6



### ***Patriotic Song Puzzles.***

Print large type copies of several well known patriotic songs such as "America" and "The Star Spangled Banner." Laminate each song, cut it into puzzle pieces and put each song into its own ziploc baggie. Children pair up by twos, find a clear space on the floor and put the song puzzle together. You can give each team a "cheat sheet" of all the words, or make them do it from memory. You might also sing the songs together first and then hand out the song puzzles.

Interest Level: Grades 3 - 8

### ***Star Wreath.***

Buy 1/2 inch thick styrofoam sheets or use styrofoam plates. Use 4" star shaped cookie cutter to punch out 9 stars for each wreath. Use acrylic paint to make three blue, three white and three red stars. Paint a 6 inch styrofoam wreath silver. When all pieces are dry, use toothpicks to glue randomly stacked stars onto each other and the wreath. Great as a door decoration.

Interest Level: K - Adult

### ***Uncle Sam's Bingo Game.***

Create paper bingo cards substituting the word UNCLE for BINGO. Use small candies such as sweetarts as markers. Fill a coffee can with letter and number combinations such as U3 and N5. Use fun foam and 2 big google eyes to make the coffee can resemble Uncle Sam wearing his big hat. Follow bingo rules to play this game.

Interest Level: K - Grade 6

### ***Visors.***

Cut visor shapes out of white oak tag paper. Provide 3/4 inch wide strips of red oak tag. This red oak tag is glued onto the visor in stripes and then trimmed to meet the



edge. Leave approximately 3/4 inch of white oak tag showing between each red stripe. Precut 1.5 inch wide curved blue oak tag piece to be glued at the upper edge of the visor where it meets the forehead. Cut your own small stars or use stick-on stars to decorate this blue edge. Tie elastic cord onto holes punched at each side of the visor using a pony bead to help it hold. Ellison die visor shape and stars are available.

Interest Level: K - Grade 6

### ***Window clings.***

Provide bottles of school glue which have been colored red or white or blue using food coloring. Each child receives one transparency sheet and a selection of patriotic patterns (single shapes and letters work best). Slide design under transparency sheet and trace the pattern with your glue. Fill each shape in completely. When the transparency sheet is filled with designs, use a black marker to write each child's name on their sheet. Then store sheets in a safe place to dry for at least 12 hours. Peel designs off the transparency sheet and use them to decorate any glass surface. Clings can be removed and stored between sheets of plastic wrap in a cool place.

Interest Level: Grades 2 - 7

### ***Windsocks.***

Before craft session, cut off tops and bottoms of empty 2 liter plastic bottles leaving just the center part. Punch 4 evenly-spaced holes at the top and about 15 evenly-spaced holes along the bottom. This becomes the body of the windsock ready to be decorated in patriotic designs with red, white and blue acrylic paints and black markers. When dry, tie ribbons into bottom holes to make streamers hanging down. To make top hanger, thread one long white ribbon from left hole to right hole.



Then thread another long white ribbon from top hole to bottom hole. Tie the four ends together firmly and hang up your windsock.

Interest Level: Grades 4-8

### ***Poetry and Music - Rhythm and rhyme***

Bates, Katharine Lee. ***America the Beautiful.***

Fourteen paintings of America illustrate the first verse of this famous song. Play a recorded version of this patriotic song while you show the illustrations.

Interest Level: K-4

***God Bless the U.S.A.: 25 Patriotic Favorites.***

Various military bands play 25 patriotic classics such as "Hail to the Chief," "Anchors Aweigh," "You're a Grand Old Flag," and "Yankee Doodle." Play the music as your participants arrive for your programs and as background music during crafts.

Interest Level: All ages

Greenwood, Lee. ***American Patriot.***

Includes 10 patriotic songs for all ages. Play "God Bless the USA," track 3, or other music from this CD as your audience gathers for the program.

Interest Level: All Ages

Gutherie, Woody. ***This Land Is Your Land.***

This familiar folk song is presented with beautiful illustrations by Kathy Jakobsen showing America's diversity. Sing the folk song or play a recorded version.

Interest Level: All ages



Hopkins, Lee Bennett. ***Hand in Hand: An American History through Poetry.***

A chronological anthology of 78 American poems with illustrations. The well-conceived anthology is handsomely and amply illustrated by Peter Fiore's robust watercolors.

Interest Level: Grade 3 and up

Hopkins, Lee Bennett. ***My America: A Poetry Atlas of the United States.***

Fifty-one poems are presented by geographic area. Use a map of the U.S. in conjunction with this book. Read a poem and locate where it takes place on the map.

Interest Level: Ages 8 and up

***Kids Celebrate America.***

This CD consists of 14 songs and is a mix of classic songs such as "America the Beautiful" and "This Land Is Your Land" and modern ones such as "I imagine" and "We Are Family." Use for background as your groups work on their patriotic crafts.

Interest Level: All Ages

Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. ***The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere.***

The illustrations by Christopher Bing enrich the famous poem about Paul Revere's very important ride that warned America the British were coming. Present poem to large group via shadow play. Make the book available for close examination as it is full of historical details.

Interest Level: K-8

Panzer, Nora. ***Celebrate America: In Poetry and Art.***

An interesting variety of poems beautifully illustrated with images of artwork from the National Museum of American Art at the Smithsonian. After reading several



of the poems aloud, have your program participants write and then illustrate their own poems about places that have a special meaning for them.

Interest Level: Grades 4 - 8

Ronstadt, Linda. ***Living in the U.S.A.***

"Back in the USA," a classic rock and roll tune, is on track one of this ten track CD. This three-minute song was written by Chuck Berry and became a bit hit for Linda Ronstadt. Play this song during the "Pass the Flag" game (found elsewhere in this manual) to keep the pace of the game lively.

Interest Level: All Ages

***Stars & Stripes Forever, Volume 2.***

This CD is a great collection of American patriotic tunes. Performers include the Limelites, Glen Miller, Lee Greenwood, Kate Smith, and others. Good background music while working on patriotic crafts.

Interest Level: All ages

Whipple, Laura. ***Celebrating America.***

More than 60 poems accompanied by images of American art on display at the Art Institute of Chicago. Pair with "Celebrate America: In Poetry and Art."

Interest Level: Grades 5 and up

The Young American All Stars. ***Our America: 15 Patriotic Songs by Our Children.***

The Young American All Stars sing 15 rousing patriotic tunes. This album of patriotic American songs is a great introduction to our country's patriotic music for young children. Use the music to set the stage for your program, or play as background during games.

Interest Level: All ages



Ziefert, Harriet. ***When I First Came To This Land.***

Caldecott award winning illustrator Simms Taback has illustrated this old folk song and given it new life and vitality. Taback's bold, bright illustrations portray the charming farmer in a series of mishaps that add fun and meaning to the verse. Antique ads, photos, ticket stubs, newspaper clippings, and stamps pasted into the art augment the period of history in a grand story about a brave generation who won't soon be forgotten. Do as a sing along with props or have flannel board cut-outs for each thing mentioned in the song.

Interest Level: K - Grade 4

### ***Community assets to broaden the world***

#### ***Daughters of the American Revolution.***

Contact your local chapter of the DAR and ask if they would be interested in speaking to your group about American history.

Interest Level: K - 8

#### ***Services Organizations***

Call your local Kiwanis group and ask if one of their members would like to make a presentation at the library. Call the Shriners group in your area and find out if anyone would like to talk to your group. Or contact the Toastmasters group in your area and ask if anyone would like to speak to your group.

Interest Level: All Ages

### ***Internet - Connect with the world***

***Ben's Guide to U.S. Government.*** <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/>  
Benjamin Franklin guides users through this site. Ben was chosen to represent U.S. Government Printing Office since he was the first public librarian in America. Uncover facts and stories about the American



government. Customized searches for K- grade 2, Grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 as well as parents and teachers are available.

Interest Level: Grades K-12

***Blackdog's States of the Union Trivia.*** <http://blackdog.net/>  
Click on "Billy Beaver's Game Show" then scroll down to "Miscellaneous Games." From there you can play games based on the states and the presidents. Play fun games of hangman based on the names of states and presidents. Lots of other things to do -- including all types of word games -- and music to play in a safe environment on the web. There is also a teen section.

Interest Level: Grades 3-8

***CIA for Kids.*** <http://www.cia.gov/cia/ciakids/index.html>  
Find out "Who We Are & What We Do" at the official site of the CIA. Find out what really happens at the Central Intelligence Agency by taking a virtual tour, putting on a disguise, breaking a code, trying a word puzzle, and testing yourself with the geography trivia quiz. Take a peek at the dogs who work for the CIA, too

Interest Level: Grades 3-8

***My America Virtual Field Trip.*** [www.field-trips.org/tours/ss/america/](http://www.field-trips.org/tours/ss/america/)

Take a guided virtual field trip across America to discover its flag, its national anthem, the Statue of Liberty and even wild horses. Links to many other sites throughout the tour.

Interest Level: Grades 3-8

***The American Presidency Virtual Field Trip.*** [www.field-trips.org/tours/ss/prez/](http://www.field-trips.org/tours/ss/prez/)

Learn everything you've ever wanted to know about the American presidency by taking this virtual trip through



Washington, D.C. and beyond. Many sites are included in this virtual tour.

Interest Level: Grades 3-8

***White House Kids Only Page.*** [www.whitehousekids.gov](http://www.whitehousekids.gov)

Whitehousekids.gov, the official site of the White House and the President, provides fun and exciting features. This guide gives teachers ideas on how to use the site in the classroom and parent's ideas on topics to discuss with their child as they navigate through the site. The themes of reading, making good choices and dreaming about the future are woven into the site's content through the personification of the President's pets and animals. This site is full of presidential news of interest to kids.

Interest Level: Grades 3-8

## ***Parenting and family activities***

### ***Family History.***

Talk with your children about what America means to you. Discuss when each side of the family first came to America.

Interest Level: All ages

### ***Fly the Flag.*** <http://www.gswrc.org/flaquetiquette.htm>

Learn flag manners together as you fly a flag at your home. Discuss the symbolism of the flag. Learn about flag etiquette by visiting the web site sponsored by Girl Scouts Wilderness Road Council --

<http://www.gswrc.org/flaquetiquette.htm>

Interest Level: All Ages



### ***Patriotic Holidays.***

On the 4th of July, discuss some of the reasons for the American Revolution. Why did the founding fathers want to break off from England? Do your kids know that the Declaration of Independence was really the beginning of the war, not the end? Discuss what we are remembering on Memorial Day. Research Veteran's Day to discover which war veterans it was originally created to honor.

Co-sponsor an essay contest on these patriotic themes.

Interest Level: All Ages

### ***Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem.***

Send home a copy of the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. Encourage families to make sure they know the correct words to each.

Interest Level: K-8

### ***Vote!***

Allow your children to see democracy in action by taking them with you when you vote. Let them see you register to vote, study the issues and cast your ballot. See if there is a Kids Voting project in your area. Let your kids participate.

Interest Level: K - 8

### Cheney, Lynne. ***America: A Patriotic Primer.***

A proud celebration of the individuals, milestones, and principles of this nation. Each busy spread features elaborately decorated letters of the alphabet, with one or two kids draped over its bars and loops, along with the highlighted concept or person. This compelling picture book will work best as a supplement for children who are already immersed in basic American history at school.



Teachers and parents will enjoy exploring with their kids every inch of the detailed, hand-drawn and illustrated U.S. map found in "U is for United States," explaining and elaborating on historical lessons as appropriate.

Interest Level: All Ages

