

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Spotlight on Performance Script

# Early in America

### Costume/Prop Suggestions

Children should dress in everyday clothes—jeans, slacks, shorts, t-shirts, and so on. Grandpa (Dr. Great) and his assistant (Dr. Eager) should look distinctive in their white lab coats. Dr. Eager should also have a clipboard and stopwatch. The minutemen should wear knickers, shirts and vests, three-cornered hats, and a sash. The Native Americans should dress in khaki-colored clothing—girls can wear dresses or smocks with feathers tied in their hair; and boys can wear khaki slacks, and short colored smocks with a headdress. The Colonial Troublemakers should wear knickers, knee socks, white shirts and vests, and three-cornered hats.

### Set Suggestions

The stage can be decorated in bright patriotic colors with flags and banners. Place large posters of early presidents and famous Americans around the stage.

### Script Begins

*(Grandpa, his assistant, and the children trip onto the stage as if they've just been dropped from a moving vehicle.)*

**Savannah:** Grandpa, where are we?

**Grandpa:** *(looking around)* Well, Savannah, it looks like my Time Machine has taken us back to early colonial days in America.

**Dr. Eager:** Dr. Great, are you sure we're safe here?

**Grandpa:** Certainly, Dr. Eager! Things were much different in these early times, but we really have much to learn from these people.

**Steven:** Can we look around a bit?

**Children:** Please, Grandpa!

**Grandpa:** I don't see why not.

*(A group of minutemen appear on stage.)*

**Kevin:** (*pointing to the minutemen*) Hey, Grandpa! Who are those guys?

**Grandpa:** Kevin, they look very much like they could be minutemen.

(*During the song the minutemen form two lines and march back and forth.*)

***Song 1: The Minuteman Minute Song, p. 322***

**Grandpa:** As I stated earlier, America was much different in its early colonial days.

**Steven:** How's that, Grandpa?

**Grandpa:** Well, for one thing, Steven, there was no electricity...

**Dr. Eager:** Or running water.

**Grandpa:** But some of our best music came from this era.

**Savannah:** You mean the spirituals that African Americans sang?

**Grandpa:** Yes, Savannah.

**Kevin:** We learned one of those in music class the other day. Let's sing it now.

***Song 2: Open the Window, Noah, p. 324***

(*A group of Native Americans appear on stage.*)

**Steven:** (*pointing*) Are those Native Americans over there?

**Dr. Eager:** Yes, Steven, I do believe they are.

**Kevin:** Look at their interesting clothes.

**Savannah:** And their beautiful feathers!

**Grandpa:** These people loved to express their emotions not only through their clothing, but through their singing and dancing as well.

(*During the song the Native Americans perform a circle dance.*)

***Song 3: Buffalo Dance Entrance Song, p. 325***

**Savannah:** I know that it would have been difficult to live during these colonial days...especially without electricity and running water...but I'm fascinated by the character of these people who made up our great country.

**Kevin:** You mean their strength and endurance?

**Steven:** Their honesty and responsibility?

**Savannah:** Exactly!

**Grandpa:** Yes, this country had many great men and women...as it does today!

**Dr. Eager:** And these people certainly knew how to have a good time.

*(The three colonial troublemakers reenact the song.)*

***Song 4: In Good Old Colony Times, p. 326***

**Dr. Eager:** *(looking at stop watch and writing something on the clipboard)* Dr. Great, if my calculations are correct we must board the Time Machine soon or we will not be able to return home safely.

**Grandpa:** Yes, Dr. Eager, I'm sure you're right.

**Savannah:** Before we go, do you think we have time to enjoy some of that colonial spirit with a song and dance?

**Children:** *(with pleading hands)* Please, Grandpa!

**Grandpa:** Why not!

**Children:** Yeah!

***Song 5: Uncle Jesse, p. 327***