

Study Guide for Teachers

Peter Hart / Atlanta Puppet “Weather Show”

Grades: Pre-K - 4

Audience Limit: 260 (Adjustable)

Length: 30 – 50 min. (Adjustable)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Peter and Mary Ann Hart present a refreshing mix of scientific facts with the visual action and excitement of puppetry to lead young audiences into exploration of the vast topic of weather. A great introduction for younger grades and it also motivates older grades' interest.

The program's segments can be used as tie-ins to Earth Science, Language Arts, Native American Cultures, and Safety Procedures for Severe Weather. Direct audience participation is included in the performance.



Audience Etiquette

This program, like all Peter Hart / Atlanta Puppet programs, features a degree of audience interaction. Mr. Hart is adept at leading the audience through their interactive roles. There are some things you can do that will enhance and improve basic audience etiquette:

- v Before the program, discuss with your students what makes a good audience.
- v Compare appropriate behavior for different kinds of audience situations – e.g., rock concert, sporting event, ballet.
- v Students will get more out the program if they come prepared. Use this guide to help students anticipate what to listen and look for.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Peter Hart has long been regarded as one of the finest and skillful professional puppeteers in the South. He has performed as Head Puppeteer in over 70 different professional puppetry productions that have won 4 International Awards from UNIMA.

Mary Ann Hart is a skilled professional performer whose talents include puppetry, mime, theatrical movement, and the circus arts. She is a Certified Instructor with the National Discipline Based Arts in Education Program (DBAE).

Peter specializes in developing and presenting puppet performance programs that go beyond adaptations of traditional fables. His original scripts reflect his vast knowledge of puppetry as a valid performance art form; his 20+ year experience as a professional puppeteer; and his desire to introduce audiences to puppet forms not commonly seen on television.

Peter & Mary Ann Hart
Atlanta Puppet
www.atlantapuppet.com



Program Description

The program is presented in a puppet booth using hand, hand-and-rod, and rod puppets. The puppeteers perform character voices live and pre-recorded music is used as accompaniment to the different events portrayed.

The program is adjustable to appropriate grade levels. Moments of audience participation/interaction are present throughout the performance. Segments of the program can be edited to accommodate time restrictions.

Program Segments:

- The performance begins with action scenes of animals as they portray "weather exaggerations" - descriptions of weather conditions commonly used in everyday conversation.
- The topic of "Weather Lore" is introduced and explored with fun scenes of animals engaged in curious behavior. Scientific explanations of air pressure, humidity, and more give reason to why animals and insects behave as they do.
- An American Indian myth lends a multi-cultural look at the weather in the legend of "The Storm Bird".
- The subject of wind and its effects is then explored in a scientific manner using the Beaufort Wind Scale. It's a highly visual depiction that literally "brings down the house"!
- Audience participation is featured in a segment that explores the subject of lightning.
- The performance concludes with a review of instructional notes on what to do in severe weather conditions and how to protect one's self in situations of extreme heat and cold

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

From the "Weather Show " students will learn:

- Exaggerated sayings people use to describe weather conditions (Weather Exaggerations)
- Examples of Weather folklore (or "weatherlore") that have been passed down through the years to forecast weather and the ties these proverbs have to scientific study
- An American Indian story as an example of how other cultures have explained weather events
- What the Beaufort Wind Scale is and how it is used to measure wind velocity
- An explanation of how lightning is formed using a "Lightning Box" and an audience participation segment to measure the time between lightning flash and thunder crash
- Precautions students should take to protect themselves in situations of extreme weather conditions

Background Information About Art Form

Puppetry is a visual medium that is best at portraying characters in moments of action. The scenes in the "Weather Show" demonstrate this effectiveness with characters in lively visual action.

Among cultures that practice puppetry (European, African, Asian, Indonesian, American), hand, hand-and-rod, and rod puppetry are all used. Examples include: Kasperel (hand puppets, Germany); Muppets (hand-and-rod, American); and Wayang Golek (rod puppets, Indonesia)



Pre-Performance Learning Activities

- ◆ Discuss with students extreme examples of weather conditions (storms, tornadoes, snowfall) they may have experienced in their lives. What did the weather do to the environment around them? How were they affected?
- ◆ Ask the students if they have ever heard "weather exaggerations" before. An example of a weather exaggeration is "it was raining cats and dogs".
- ◆ Discuss with students how they would predict weather changes if there were no television or radio weather reports to use. How would they use the environment around them to give them clues?

Post- Performance Learning Activities

For Grades Pre-K – 2

● The Weather Show concludes with a review of precautions that one should take to protect against normal seasonal changes of winter cold and summer heat.

◆ Using a stuffed toy animal or doll figure, have students describe or make a list of what clothing the figure should wear in summer and winter

For Grades 3 – 4

Colorful sayings have often been used to describe weather events. In the Weather Show, the Weather Exaggerations depicted included "it was raining so hard the ducks came in to dry off".

CLASS EXERCISE: As a classroom call-and-response exercise, students will enjoy making up their own Weather Exaggerations. These can be initiated with complete the blank phrases such as:

- "It rained so hard....."
- "It was so hot"
- "The wind blew so hard....."

The instructor should lead the exercise by introducing the phrase and selecting students (or teams) to complete it in a game show, quick response fashion. The sayings will become quite creative as students try to best each other in their responses. This can be extended to writing the different phrases on the board, however, taking time to record the different endings will affect the energy and pace of the exercise.

Relevant Curriculum Standards

Grades 1, 4 - **Earth Science**

17 Topic: Earth Processes: Weather
Standard: Compares and contrasts differences in weather by seasons.

18 Topic: Earth Processes: Weather
Standard: Makes observations using simple weather-related instruments.

29 Topic: Earth Processes: Weather
Standard: Uses weather instruments to collect data and measure factors

Grades 3, 4 - **Language Arts**

10 Topic: Listening/Speaking

Standard: Determines the literal and figurative meaning of words (idioms)

Grade 2 - **Language Arts**

50 Topic: Literature

Standard: Discriminates between realism and fantasy

Grade 1, 2 – **Fine Arts Theatre Arts**

13 Topic: Artistic Skills and Knowledge
Standard: Dramatizes through story drama, pantomime, puppetry

23 Topic: Historical and Cultural Context
Standard: Identifies facts about different cultures through enacting stories from various parts of the world

Resources

A web page that addresses the subject of weather-lore forecasting in an eloquent fashion while providing scientific reasoning can be found at the *Stalking The Wild* web site - www.stalkingthewild.com/weather.htm

A very impressive listing of "weather-lore sayings" can be found at - http://members.aol.com/Accustiver/wxworld_folk.html

To find out more about the Mi'kmaq Tribe, go to: www.dickshovel.com/mic.html

Further information on the Beaufort Wind Scale can be seen here - www.stormfax.com/beaufort.htm

Curriculum Connections

The "Weather Show" offers numerous curriculum connection possibilities to Earth Science, Language Arts, and Native American areas.

- Earth Science -

◆ The use of the Beaufort Wind Scale is portrayed in the performance. The scale assigns wind velocity a visual effect and number. The scale has been adopted by the World Meteorological Organization as a standard for describing wind speed.

◆ Lesson Plan : Understanding Wind Direction And Making A Wind Vane
A simple classroom craft activity. Web site for this activity is www.atlantapuppet.com/wind-van.htm

◆ Lesson Plan: The Wind Blows
A hands-on classroom activity using observation, measurement and recording of data.
Web site for this activity is www.atlantapuppet.com/wind-blo.htm

- Language Arts -

■ Colorful sayings (weather exaggerations) have often been used to describe weather events. These sayings also lend themselves to a language art exploration into figurative language (idioms) and other forms of descriptive writing. The sayings "raining cats and dogs" and "under the weather" are examples of idioms.

Language Arts Lesson Plan – Idioms can be found at www.atlantapuppet.com/IDIOM-LESSON.htm

- Native American -

● All cultures in the world have used legends to describe weather events and phenomena. In the Atlanta Puppet performance, an adaptation of the legend, "The Storm Bird", from the Mi'kmaq Indian tribe is presented as an example of weather myth and legend. It is also a humorous depiction of how humans can learn to cooperate with nature.

● For a Mi'kmaq version of the "Cinderella" story, go to: www.kstrom.net/isk/stories/cinder3.html

- Extra -

There is an Assessment Form that has been developed for 3rd Grade to aid teachers in judging the effectiveness of the Weather Show. It includes the New Georgia Performance Standards:
www.atlantapuppet.com/assess.htm

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Other Study Guides Available at:
www.atlantapuppet.com