

POST SHOW ACTIVITY

A FOLK OPERA
YORK
THE EXPLORER



MUSIC ACTIVITY

CREATE YOUR EXPLORATION SONG

After experiencing York the Explorer, students will compose their own adventure song!

Activity Instructions:

- Ask students to think about York's journey and the different places he explored
- Have them create a simple song (melody can be original or use a familiar tune like "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star") with lyrics about their own imaginary exploration

Students should include:

- Where they would explore (jungle, ocean, mountains, space, etc.)
- What they might discover there
- How they would feel during their adventure
- What tools or supplies they would need
- Encourage students to add sound effects or simple percussion (clapping, stomping, desk tapping)
- Students can perform their songs individually or in small groups
- Extension: Create simple instruments from classroom materials to accompany their songs
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Extension: Create simple instruments from classroom materials to accompany their songs

Materials Needed

- Percussion Instruments
- Melodic Instruments if available
- Paper and pencils for lyrics

Lesson Duration

60 minutes

WRITING ACTIVITY

(20 minutes)

YORK'S EXPLORATION JOURNAL

Students will step into York's boots and create journal entries from his adventures.

Activity Instructions:

Ask students to imagine they are York writing in his exploration journal at the end of each day. Have them write 2-3 journal entries describing different moments from the performance, including:

- What York discovered that day
- Challenges he faced and how he overcame them
- People or creatures he met along the way
- His thoughts and feelings about the adventure
- What he learned about himself or the world
- Encourage descriptive language that helps readers visualize York's experiences
- Students should write from York's perspective using "I" statements
- Remind them to include specific details they remember from the performance

Extension: Students can create additional journal entries imagining new adventures York might have after the show ends

Materials Needed

- Writing utensil
- Paper or Journals
- Research Materials about York



VISUAL ART ACTIVITY

MAP OF YORK'S ADVENTURES

Students will create an artistic treasure map showing York's journey and discoveries.

Activity Instructions:

Provide students with large paper (11x17 or poster size works well)

Ask them to design a colorful, detailed map that shows:

- The different locations York visited during his adventures
- Important landmarks or discoveries from each place
- The path York took from one location to another
- Illustrations of creatures, people, or objects York encountered
- A compass rose and map legend

Encourage students to use various art materials: colored pencils, markers, crayons, or paint

Students should include creative map elements like:

- Decorative borders with patterns or designs
- "Treasure" symbols marking important discoveries
- Weather or terrain features (mountains, rivers, forests)

Have them add a title for their map and sign it as the "cartographer"

Extension: Students can write a brief description on the back explaining the most exciting part of York's journey shown on their map.

MATERIALS

- Maps and images of the Lewis and Clark expedition.
- Colored pencils, paints, or markers
- Age-appropriate books about York and the Corps of Discovery

Additional Notes for Teachers:

- These activities can be completed individually or in small groups
- Allow 30-45 minutes for each activity
- Consider displaying finished work around the classroom
- Activities can be modified for different skill levels within the 4th-5th grade range
- Encourage students to reference specific moments from the performance they attended