



# History of Theatre West Virginia

Theatre West Virginia was founded in 1955 as the West Virginia Historical Drama Association by concerned citizens from the Raleigh County region who desired to present West Virginia's unique culture to as wide an audience as possible.

Founders included former Governor Hulett C. Smith, Leo Vecellio, Charles Hodel, C.S. Lewis Jr., Harry Anderson, Waldo Lafon, M.W. Powers and others who helped fund the project. In 1961, their dream became a reality with the opening of *Honey in the Rock*. The dramatic view of the New River Gorge coupled with a perfectly designed amphitheatre in Grandview has provided more than one million visitors with the excitement of outdoor musical drama.

*Hatfields and McCoy's* opened in 1970, joining *Honey in the Rock* as Theatre West Virginia's second drama. *Hatfields and McCoy's* received immediate acclaim for its strong musical score and dignified portrayal of mountain history by news media coast to coast.

In 1972, the Acting Company was formed to tour communities and schools and remains, to date, the only professional touring and historical outdoor drama theatre company in the state. The Marionette Company was formed in 1975 and The West Virginia Dance Company joined the organization from 1985-1991. The touring companies now perform in more than 400 contracted engagements annually.

## Purpose of Study Guides

TWV has designed online study guides such as this one to enhance students' theatrical experiences. Using the guide, teachers can encourage their students to explore both the show and the production elements. It also showcases how theatre can enhance and enrich lives. The study guide contains projects, activities, and discussion questions that will allow students to engage in analysis, research, and personal reflection. TWV hopes that with the help of this study guide children will begin to gain a greater understanding and appreciation for theatre.

# Introduction



The original **Schoolhouse Rock** television series was the brainchild of an advertising executive, David McCall who noticed his son could remember all the words to popular songs on the radio, but could not remember the multiplication tables. He reasoned that if important educational information was coupled with exciting animation and catchy music, children would be able to learn and remember it. His solution was simple: Link math with contemporary music and the kids will breeze through school on a song.

The series of animated cartoon shorts-41 segments in all-used appealingly goofy characters, catchy tunes and repetition to teach its young consumers about Multiplication, Grammar, History, and Science. Over the course of its 12-year run, Schoolhouse Rock received many accolades from parents, professional educators and television insiders, even winning four Emmys for Outstanding Children's Programming.

## Scott Ferguson

Scott Ferguson served originally as a conceiver, director, and book writer. He still works on the show and directs some performances. He serves as the artistic director of TheatreBam Chicago. He graduated with a B.S. in Speech/Theatre from Northwestern University. He has also directed: *Evita*, *I Now Pronounce Thee...*, *Princess and the Pea*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, and *The Miracle Worker*. He received the Ostrander Award for Director, the Memphis Theatre Award for Choreography and Direction. Ferguson has also helped write *A Holiday Spin* and *A Colorful Symphony*. He also serves as director and teacher at the National High School Institute of Northwestern University.

The following bookmarks list proper theatre etiquette during performances. Please print these out for your students to make reminder cards/bookmarks to keep with them throughout the show. More tickets can be printed from a separate file on the website.

## Going to the Theatre!

Some basic theatre etiquette tips:

1. Do not bring any outside food or beverage into the performance area.
2. Do not talk or whisper to your neighbor during the performance.
3. No electronic devices should be brought to the performance area, so please turn off all cell phones.
4. Keep your feet on the floor and stay seated throughout the duration of the performance.
5. Stay until the end of the show and clap during the curtain call to say "thank you" to the performers.

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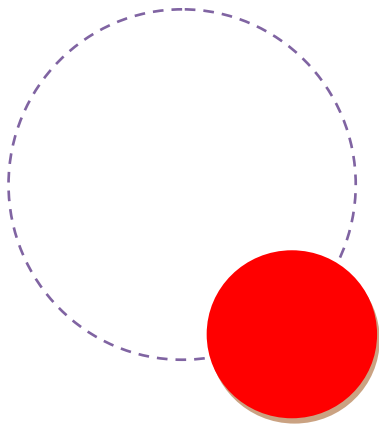
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# Grammar Rock

## Materials:

Several sheets of construction paper that have been marked with the parts of speech. Laminate the paper after labeling each sheet. Each part of speech gets its own color.

Following are my examples.



nouns = dark blue  
pronouns = light blue  
action verbs = dark green  
linking verbs = light green  
adjectives = purple  
adverbs = orange  
conjunctions = white  
prepositions = tan  
interjections = hot pink

You can also make punctuation signs. Periods, question marks, and exclamation points are put on stop signs. Commas, colons, and semicolons are put on yield signs. The beginning and ending quotation marks each get one yield sign which are attached with enough yarn to surround several students. When used in a sentence, the yarn from the quotation marks cards surrounds those students holding the words from the direct quote.

## Activity #1

**Directions:** Divide the class into two teams. Determine which team will go first. Write a sentence on the board and assign one student from the first team to each word. Each student is to figure out what part of speech the word is and choose the correct laminated card. Then the student is to write the word on the card with an erasable marker. Have the students hold their cards in front of them and line up in the correct sequence according to the sentence. Have other students fill in with the correct punctuation.

If the team has correctly labeled all of the words, they score ten points. If there are any mistakes, the teacher allows the other team to check for correctness. If someone sees a mistake, he raises his hand and announces which word he thinks has been labeled

incorrectly. The teacher answers with a yes or no. If the answer is no, the student is out for that round and the other team scores one point. If the answer is yes, the student makes the correction. If he is correct, his team scores two points. The round continues until all mistakes have been corrected. If no players are left to make corrections, or they do not detect all of them, the teacher calls the end of the round. Any remaining mistakes are discussed before going on to the next round. The teams switch places and a new sentence is given.

## Activity #2

Directions: Play as directed above, but the teams create their own sentences instead of working from a given sentence.

## Activity #3

Directions: Divide the students into groups of 3 to 5 members. Give each group several cards and challenge them to create a sentence using every card. Make sure that there enough essential elements in each set of cards to allow the group to actually create a sentence. For example, if don't give a group a verb card, they won't be able to create a sentence.

You can give each group a complete set of punctuation cards that they can use for each set of word cards, or you can include the punctuation in the cards you give them for each round.

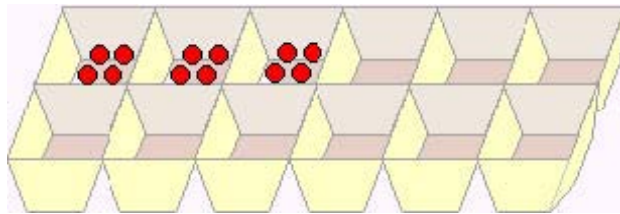


# Multiplication Rock

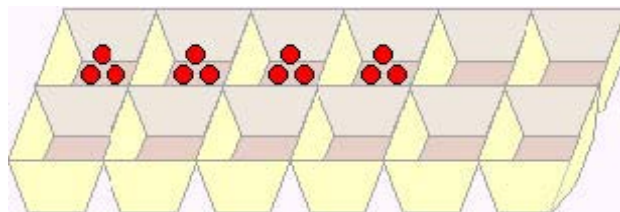
## Manipulative:

1) **Egg carton math.** Have each child bring in an egg carton and a plastic container with some type of little objects. These could be pennies, beads, buttons, paper clips, raw macaroni, mini-pompoms... whatever. When you say and write a problem, such as  $3 \times 4$ , the children need to display this problem using different sections of the egg carton to hold each group.

By the way, I always told my students to think of the X in a multiplication problem as meaning "groups of." So  $3 \times 4$  is "3 groups of 4."



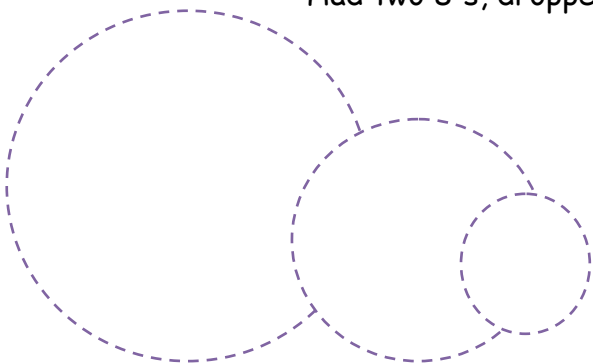
Using the egg carton, then, they would only use 3 compartments, and they would put 4 items in each of those 3 compartments, counting as they go. And also after the problem is set up, they can count by those 4's: 4, 8, 12.



Then you could say, " $4 \times 3$ ." Now they need 4 groups of 3, so they'll use 4 compartments and put 3 items in each, but they will still have 12. Count by those 3's: 3, 6, 9, 12.

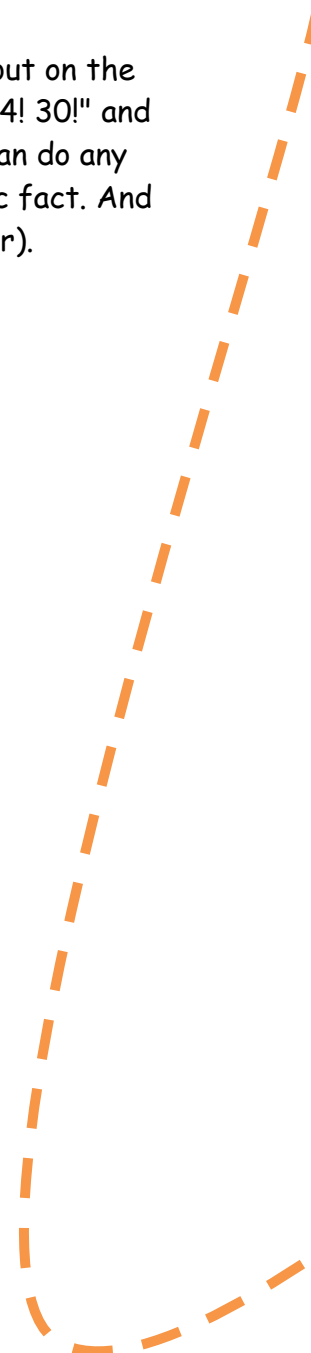
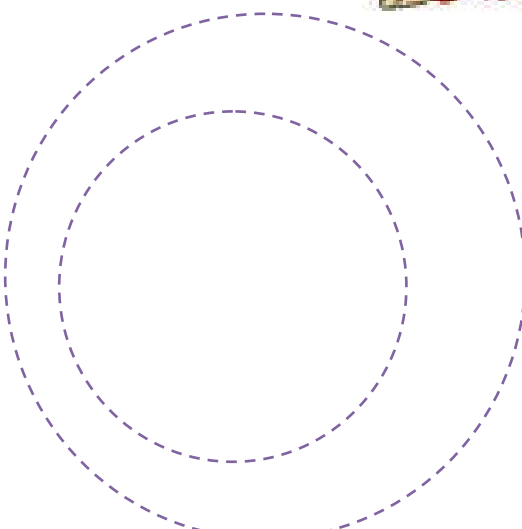
**Rhymes and Stories:** Make up silly sayings to remember the hard ones. The kids really get in to making up ones for their hard ones. Ex:

"Had two 8's, dropped them on the floor, picked them up, had 64."



# Physical Correlation

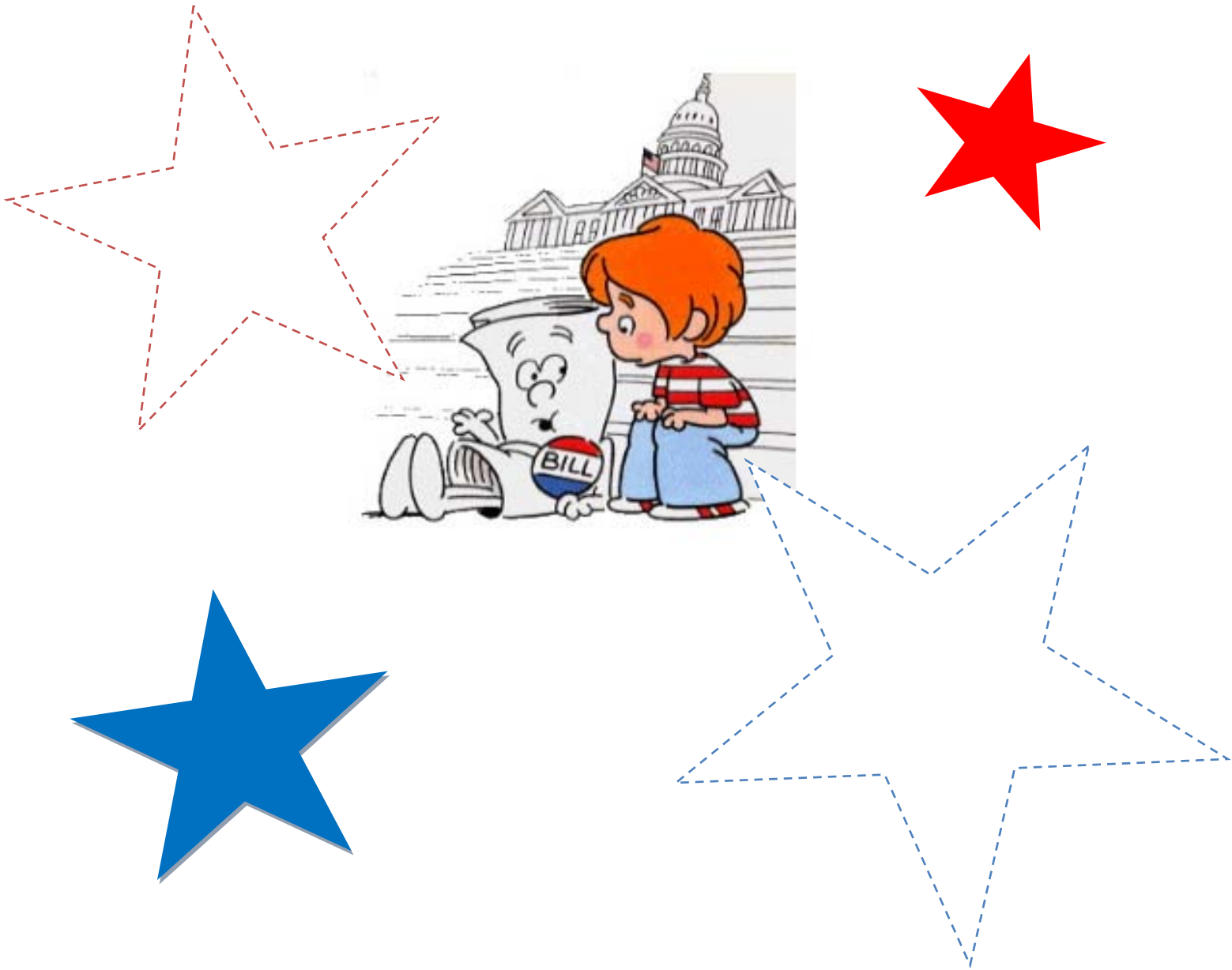
Physical movement helps students learn math facts, including multiplication. Go out on the playground and march in a circle, skip-counting by a given number: (6) "6! 12! 18! 24! 30!" and so on. When they got good, we'd march and skip-count backwards. When they can do any table backwards and forwards, they won't have any trouble figuring out a specific fact. And they really did get so they could all skip-count by any number (10 or under).



# America Rock

## Just a Bill?

Discuss bills that have become laws and why they are important laws to have. Discuss bills that have been vetoed and research why or why not they should have been passed. If your students were president, what laws would they pass?



Reference: <http://www.emergentchaos.com/images/06-mar/schoolhouse-rock.jpg>

# Science Rock

## What Is a Planet Today?

Remember- In the song Interplanet Janet, they sing about our 9 planets. Please don't forget to explain to the class that we now only have 8 planets, due to Pluto's 'demotion' to a dwarf planet in August, 2006.

According to the new definition, a full-fledged planet is an object that orbits the sun and is large enough to have become round due to the force of its own gravity. In addition, a planet has to dominate the neighborhood around its orbit. Pluto has been demoted because it does not dominate its neighborhood. Charon, its large "moon," is only about half the size of Pluto, while all the true planets are far larger than their moons.

In addition, bodies that dominate their neighborhoods, "sweep up" asteroids, comets, and other debris, clearing a path along their orbits. By contrast, Pluto's orbit is somewhat untidy. The new definition also establishes a third class of objects that orbit the sun—"solar system bodies," which would apply to many asteroids, comets, and moons. The new definition of "planet" retains the sense that a true planet is something special.

Courtesy of National Geographic

## A Gravity Experiment

**Materials you will need:** • Small rubber ball • Flat table top surface • Medium size canning jar (wide mouth) or a jar with a lip/neck (large mayonnaise jar)

\* See if you can lift the ball up from the table top without touching the ball or tipping over the jar. Were you able to do it?

### Steps:

1. Place the ball on top of the table
2. Place the jar over the ball so that the ball is inside the mouth of the canning jar.
3. Start spinning the jar around in a circular motion (keeping it on the table).

4. Once the ball starts spinning inside the jar lift it from the table top.
5. The ball is lifted from the table and will continue to spin inside the jar until it loses its speed.



## Character List

Tom- a nervous, young teacher who learns multiple lessons throughout the story.

George - one of Tom's thoughts who teach him about the number 3 and bills.

Dori- another of Tom's thoughts that is eager to teach him about nouns.

Shulie- the 'Interplanet Janet' reminds him about adjectives.

Dina- Tom's thought that teaches him about adjectives and interjections.

Joe- another of Tom's thoughts that stresses the importance of conjunctions and diversity.

Reference: <http://www.kids-science-experiments.com/spinningball.html>

Theatre West Virginia is a non-profit organization. For more information regarding our professional theatre company or professional training academy, call (304) 256-6800 or (800) 666-9142 or visit us online at [www.theatrewestvirginia.com](http://www.theatrewestvirginia.com). More copies of this educational study guide can be found on the website.

Please color the Theatre West Virginia logo. Any student can bring their designed logos to our box office for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2010 season starting Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, and receive a free ticket to any of our three main stage productions (shows include Honey in the Rock, Hatfields & McCoys, and Footloose; does not include Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory).

