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**Sample Instructional Plan**

**Program Title:** Musical America: Songs that Shaped our Nation’s History

**Artist/Ensemble:** Lone Star Minstrels

1. Introduction **5 min.**
	* Musicians are introduced and ask the audience what they know about America’s songs
	* Musicians decide to help the audience learn about America and her songs through a **performance.**
		+ Questions to audience:
			- What is a **performance**?
			- What is a **performer**? Specifically, what is a **musician?**
			- What is an **audience**?
			- How do you behave when you’re in the audience?
2. Performance/Lesson **30 minutes**
	* First Song – *Yankee Doodle*
		+ Introduce the Revolutionary War period and George Washington
		+ Discuss where the term “**Yankee**” comes from
		+ Sing Yankee Doodle
	* Second Song – *The Star Spangled Banner*
		+ Introduce the War of 1812 and **Francis Scott Key** and the story of how/where he wrote the song.
		+ Discuss what a **National Anthem**
		+ Discuss when, where, and why we play our national anthem.
		+ Explain what you do when the National Anthem is played.
		+ Sing the National Anthem
	* Third Song – *Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen*
		+ Introduce the Civil War era and why the nation was in trouble
		+ Discuss **Harriet Tubman** and her importance in helping slaves get to freedom
		+ Discuss how music and singing was an important way to help keep hopes and spirits up
		+ Sing *Nobody knows the Trouble I’ve Seen*
	* Fourth Song – *Home Home on the Range*
		+ Discuss the nation’s **expansion** and **industrialization**
		+ Discuss what a “beat” is and how this song is written in 3/3 time
		+ Have students practice tapping a 3/3 beat
		+ Sing *Home Home on the Range* with students keeping time
	* Fifth Song – *This Little Light of Mine*
		+ Fast forward to the Civil Rights era, and introduce **Martin Luther King Jr.**
		+ Discuss how old words or ideas can be used in a new way to mean something powerful; mention how the song lyrics came to be.
		+ Have students practice a 4/4 beat as compared to a 3/3 beat
		+ Sing *This Little Light of Mine* with students keeping time
3. Closing **10 minutes**
	* Ask students to remember all the songs we sang in order; discuss the importance of **chronology** and how it relates to history
	* Reintroduce all of the characters we met and the songs they’re tied to
	* Final Song *This Land is Your Land*
		+ Reinforce the notion that America is a large country with a rich history, and that music is a large part of that.
		+ Sing *This Land is Your Land* with the students
	* Bows and goodbyes