

Songs to Learn By-

Telling a Story with Music

AUTHOR:

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** This activity was originally written for "Down Jersey - Celebrating Our Sense of Place," Produced by Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and it's Tributaries, Inc.*

Visit their website at www.cumauriceriver.com and find the entire teacher's guidebook and numerous other resources that relate to the Southern Bayshore Region of New Jersey. Many of these resources also relate to Barnegat Bay.



Captain Rider fiddles a tune on Tucker's Island Lighthouse steps.
Photo: courtesy Tuckerton Seaport.

1 Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- discuss the media of song as it describes historical and natural phenomena and events,
- develop their own song lyrics based on a Barnegat Bay topic of their choice,
- realize and appreciate the value of songs for entertainment and educational value.

CORRELATION TO NJCCCS:

The correlations in this publication were done prior to 2002 utilizing the older standards from 1994.

ART -	1.1 (1,2,3)
LANGUAGE ARTS -	3.1 (5,8,12)
SOCIAL STUDIES -	6.2 (1,3,4,9)
	1.2 (1,2,3)
	3.3 (2,3,4,5,6)
	6.4 (1,6,7)
	1.3 (2)
	3.4 (3,4,9,11,12)
	6.5 (3,6)
	1.5 (1,3,4,5,6,7)
VOCABULARY -	All Subject Areas

Subject Areas

Art, Language Art, Social Studies

Duration

One or two class periods (more if actually producing song book or recordings).

Setting

Classroom.

Skills

Interpreting, applying, analyzing, summarizing.

Vocabulary

folklife, lyrics, others...as identified by the specific topic chosen.

2 Materials

Copies of the song lyrics (included). Optional: a cassette/cd of Valerie Vaughn’s “Tucker’s Island,” (available from Valerie Vaughn 609-296-4089).

3 Making Connections

Songs can be a great way to learn about a region. Valerie Vaughn specializes in songs about the environment and Barnegat Bay. Many other folk musicians, singers, and songwriters also focus on Barnegat Bay and the region. *See related activity: “The Changing Tides and Tucker’s Island.”*

4 Background

Valerie Vaughn:

Singer, Songwriter and “Talespinner”

Commentary provided by Terry O’Leary.

Valerie Vaughn is a multi-talented musical educator from Tuckerton, New Jersey. She specializes in writing and singing tunes with South Jersey themes, covering important environmental issues as well as historical sagas of people and places from the Jersey shore and pines. Performing interactive programs for children, Valerie brings to life coastal heritage, pirate lore, familiar fairytales, tales of the west, and, most recently, songs about the Delaware Bay and the AJ Meerwald.

Her renowned “Talespinner” program for young listeners evolved after years of experience as a musician and school counselor. Valerie’s message of protecting the environment and preserving history reaches audiences of all ages. She covers a wide variety of musical styles including folk, country, blues, traditional Irish, and musical story telling.

5 Procedure

WARM UP: Introduce the concept of shanties, folk, and story telling with music. Explain how such creative expressions are a means to share the past with the present.

■ Folk music is also an integral part of life as a bayman, a migrant worker, or a true “piney.” This music played an important role in people’s sense of place. *Play recorded folk songs or invite a folk singer as a special guest.*

THE ACTIVITY

- Distribute copies of the lyrics to “Tucker’s Island” or “Old Tuckerton,” by Valerie Vaughn. Have students, either individually or in small groups, read the lyrics and summarize each song.
- Groups should present their descriptions to the class.
- Next, distribute the lyrics to “My Special Place,” by Nick Miller (age 11). Have students discuss the song’s lyrics.

AN OPTIONAL ART ASSIGNMENT: Have students illustrate “My Special Place” by drawing or painting a picture.

- From topics related to the Barnegat Bay watershed, have students work in small groups to create lyrics for a song. The teacher should provide time for research of the topic if needed. Students can use the melody from another song to accompany their lyrics. This makes it easier to write words to go along with the tune.
- Emphasis should be put on the songs being true to fact, depicting the chosen theme or topic.

WRAP UP: The students should present (perform) their songs to the class.

6 Assessment

Student participation in the song writing and group discussions..

7 Extensions

Students' songs could be assembled into a booklet and actually recorded. Involve the music teacher in song productions. There are many high schools that have this capability in their in-house studios.

8 Resources Referenced

Down Jersey—Celebrating Our Sense of Place, Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and It's Tributaries, Inc., P.O. Box 474, Millville, NJ 08332.

www.cumauriceriver.org



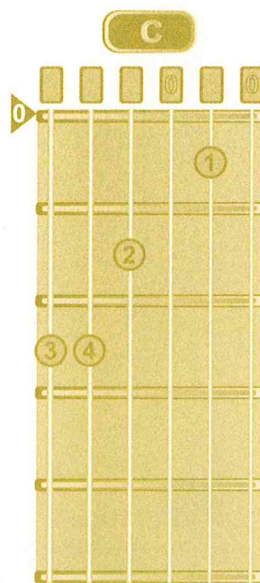
9 Additional Resources

Albert Music Hall is a locally famous gathering place for musicians with a special flavor of music unique to our area. It is located on Route 532 (Wells Mill Road) in Waretown (609-971-1593).

Each year in October, Wells Mills County Park hosts the Pine Barrens Jamboree. This is a great opportunity to see and hear some real "down home" musicians.

10 Stewardship Project Ideas

Put on a school wide assembly or program for the teachers, students, parents and community that highlights the importance of protecting the Barnegat Bay watershed.



it's about TIME
and TIMING!



PLAY with chords - on banjos and guitars

Tucker's Island

VALERIE VAUGHN 8 1994

VERSE I:

I want to tell you a story of a place that used to be,
Right off of Beach Haven, way out on the sea.
And of the people who all lived there so happily,
For awhile then . . . on Tucker's Island.

Reuben Tucker bought the land 200 years ago and
He built himself a boarding house where
fishermen could go.
They'd hunt and fish the first resort
New Jersey'd ever know,
All six miles in . . . Tucker's Island.

CHORUS:

But the winds they ripped and tore away the shore,
And Tucker's Island just is not there anymore.
Now it sits beneath the ocean, holding memories
by the score,
Of a time when there was a place called
Tucker's Island.

VERSE II:

Eber Rider worked the lighthouse,
guiding ships both night and day.
He had a house in Tuckerton,
across the old Great Bay.
And if you go to Main and Cedar Street,
it still stands there today,
Stands there smiling . . . On Tucker's Island.

The people of the island built a school house
in the shade,
With money from a clambake that the ladies
there had made.
It became a church on Sundays
when the people bowed and prayed,
For good times on . . . Tucker's Island.

CHORUS:

But the winds they ripped and tore away the shore,
And Tucker's Island just is not there anymore.
Now it sits beneath the ocean, holding memories
by the score,
Of a time when there was a place called
Tucker's Island.

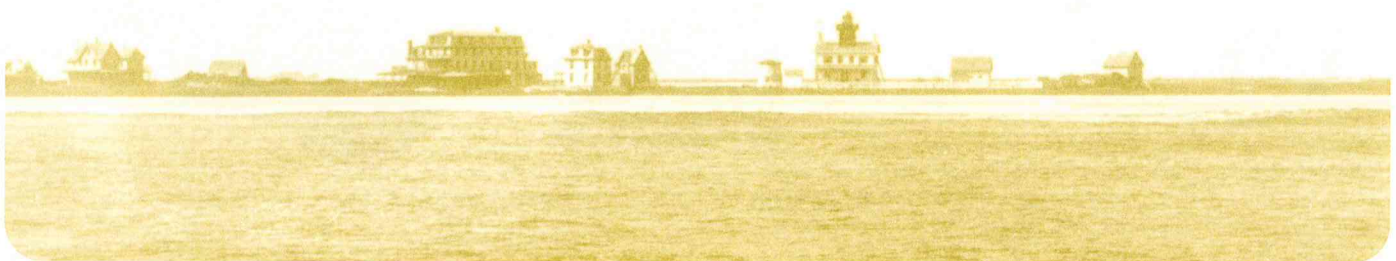
VERSE III:

Josh and Emma Tyler waited for that final wave,
To consume their little cottage,
bring it to an early grave.
Josh sure was a mighty man,
but muscle couldn't save,
This domicile . . . Tucker's island.

One by one the buildings fell,
like castles in the sand,
The lighthouse, the school house,
then the Coast Guard stand.
You know by 1950 there was not a trace of land.
Not a sign of . . . Tucker's Island.

CHORUS:

But the winds they ripped and tore away the shore,
And Tucker's Island just is not there anymore.
Now it sits beneath the ocean,
holding memories by the score,
Of a time when there was a place called
Tucker's Island.



Old Tuckerton

VALERIE VAUGHN 8 1994

CHORUS:

Things are okay on the Barnegat Bay.
We're having fun here in Old Tuckerton.

VERSE I:

If you come down Jersey way,
And you sail down Barnegat Bay,
there you'll find our new resort,
Ye Old Tuckerton seaport.

So important was Old Tuckerton,
It was declared by George Washington,
Our country's third port of entry,
Around the late eighteenth century.

CHORUS:

VERSE II:

We've got the decoys, come and see'um,
In our new Baymen's Museum.
You can share in our history,
Thanks to the brothers Gormley.

Or you can visit Harry Shourds,
Who carved decoys by the hoards.
And Hazelton Seaman's old sneak box,
Helps you bag the birdies by the flocks.

CHORUS:

VERSE III:

But there's some things we don't have here!

If it's for the city you are wishin',
I'm sorry, but we've all gone fishin',
We like our life as it is here,
With the clams and the boats and the birds
and the deer.

Yes! Life is good in Old Clam Town.
Hey everybody, rally round!
If real America is what you seek,
You'll find it on Tuckerton Creek.

We clam to live with boats and rakes.
Or tread with your toes for goodness sake.
We're rich with wetlands, bay and sea,
And maritime history.

CHORUS:

My Special Place

WORDS BY NICK MILLER (AGE 11)

VERSE I:

There's a little path right down the street
It has mud weeds and mini creek
I go there just to get away
Its mouth leads right into the bay

CHORUS::

Sometimes it has wonderful creatures
Turtles, ducks and beautiful land features
In the summer I take my friends there and
Show them a little turtle lair;
I go down and put my feet in
Then I feel like I have a little fin

VERSE II:

There's a little path made by ducks
It leads right into the dirty mucks
This place is very special to me
I hope it will last for eternity

CHORUS::

Sometimes it has wonderful creatures
Turtles, ducks and beautiful land features
In the summer I take my friends there and
Show them a little turtle lair;
I go down and put my feet in
Then I feel like I have a little fin.



Another Song to learn by:

Barnegat Bay

TOMS RIVER KIWANIS SONG (LYRICS ONLY)

VERSE I:

There's a story that's told,
How the Pirates of old,
Sailed into fair Barnegat Bay,
When their old Captain Kidd,
Sought a way to get rid of the gold
they had hoarded away.
So, they took from the hold,
All the great chests of gold,
And buried them deep on the shore;
And went sailing away, from the treasure
and bay to the old Spain main for more.

CHORUS:

And then they said There's a spot that I know
where I'm longing to go,
One place where I'm aiming to stay,
But what ever I do, I am pining for you,
old Barney, fair Barnegat Bay.

VERSE II:

If you're looking for fun,
Take your rod and your gun.
But leave all your troubles at home;
You'll have no time to fret, Down at old
Barnegat, when the wind whips the wave
into foam.

If you're feeling so blue,
You don't know what to do,
Just sail on fair Barnegat Bay.
She will please and beguile,
Change frown to a smile,
and drive all your cares away.

CHORUS:

And then they said There's a spot that I know
where I'm longing to go,
One place where I'm aiming to stay,
But what ever I do, I am pining for you,
old Barney, fair Barnegat Bay.



"Dogs on Cat" ARCHIVES PHOTO: COURTESY TUCKERTON SEAPORT