

The One and Only, Genuine, Original Family Band

We just finished lesson 9 in All American History Jr. The lessons plans suggested we watch *The One and Only, Genuine, Original Family Band*.

I had never heard of this movie but am so glad we rented it from Netflix. Especially after this past presidential election, it provided a humorous look at politics.

The setting of movie is 1888 and Grover Cleveland is running against Benjamin Harrison for president.

Here are some tips to use when watching it.

Play I Spy Musical Instruments

In the opening act the family is rehearsing, try to identify the instruments that each member is playing.

These are the instruments we identified:

drum, cymbals, piccolo, tuba, trumpet, recorder, trombone, banjo, flute, and shakers. If some of these instruments are new to your student try researching them before watching the movie.

Government Review

Make sure your students understand the Electoral College and popular vote. This will help to understand how Cleveland received the popular vote but lost in the Electoral College.

History

In many of the songs the family sings about a lot of historical events: Valley Forge, Lincoln and the Civil War, Patrick Henry's famous speech, Nathan Hale, and Paul Revere. It was a great review of what we have learned in American history up to this point.

Geography

Only 38 states were in the Union when the election happened. Identify those states. These states were NOT states yet: Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Washington, Alaska, Hawaii, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho.

Locate the Black Hills of South Dakota on a map. This is the area that Joe Carder wants Republicans to move to.

Dancing

Do you know what soft shoe tapping is? The father does a nice skit of soft shoe tapping. Maybe you would like to try a dance skit of your own.

Discussion Questions

- 1) Does music really cross all boundaries? The father explains that even through he is a Republican he feels he can sing a song about electing a Democrat.
- 2) Should a Republican sing at the Democratic Convention?
- 3) Would you move your family to a new area for political reasons?
- 4) Do you think a president should win the popular vote and the Electoral College to become president?

*Warning a feisty brawl breaks out when Harrison is elected by the Electoral College after losing the popular vote. There are men drinking beer at the party.