

ART ENCOUNTERS
EDUCATION PROGRAM
2004-2005

FRIENDLY CLUES STUDY GUIDE



Friends of the Arts
Regional arts Council PO Box 386,
Plymouth, NH 03264
603-536-1182
www.friends-of-the-arts.org

FRIENDLY CLUES STUDY GUIDE:

Skip Gorman

This Friendly Clues Study Guide provides supplementary information and activities to enhance the upcoming Art Encounters Education Program at your school. The guide was developed to assist teachers in making connections between the arts enrichment program and their curriculum.

Inside you will find:

- 1. Background information** about the artist
- 2. Supplemental Material from Skip Gorman:** Student Activity sheets: Your students can prepare for the experience by reading and/or working on one or several of Skip's helpful activity sheets.
- 3. Resource Links:** Skip has supplied us with a huge amount of information including song lyrics, timeline, maps, and a bibliography.
- 4. Art Encounters Education Program History:** Serving schools since 1978!
- 5. Audience Responsibility:** Prepare your students for a live presentation.
- 6. Letter to parents:** Let your community know what wonderful cultural program you provide for your students! Invite them to attend part of Skip Gorman's day at your school.
- 7. Program Evaluation Form:** Help us to continue improving how we serve your school!

1. Background Information about the Artist:

MEET Skip Gorman

Who: A New Hampshire resident, Skip Gorman has a degree in Latin American studies from Brown University and was a full time history and Spanish teacher for twelve years at Suffield Academy in Connecticut and Tilton School in New Hampshire. A two-time New Hampshire Fellowship finalist, Skip lived in Utah for many years and has worked as a cowboy on ranches in Wyoming. He has three cds on the Rounder label, one a finalist for the prestigious Naird Award. His music has been used by Ken Burns in his American life documentaries, *Lewis & Clark* and *Baseball*. In his travels throughout the country and Europe, Skip has sensed a compelling need for students (particularly those on the East Coast) to become exposed to a version of the history of the West untainted by Hollywood and Nashville's sensationalist view of weaponry and violence. Therefore Skip's focus will be on the care and nurturing of animals, the courage of settlers on the unforgiving prairie, and the excitement of geographical discovery.

What: Using songs, stories, poetry and a variety of period instruments (minstral banjo, cross-tuned fiddle, harmonica, guitar, cow bones, and limberjack) skip Gorman will lead students through an enriching and enjoyable journey through some fascinating aspects of the history of the real American West.

When: Skip Gorman will be coming to _____ school on _____ at _____.

Vocabulary Words to listen for:

Doggie (also dough gut or dough belly): motherless calf

Buckaroo: a cowboy or bronco buster

Bronco: an untamed horse

Vaquero: Spanish for cowboy...became "buckaroo"

Chaparejos: Spanish for leather pants...became "chaps"

3. Resource Links: For More Information.....

Song Lyrics: Attached

Cowboy Clothing Description: Attached

Timeline of the American West: Attached

Map of Texas: Attached

Extensive Bibliography compiled by Skip Gorman: attached

Also:

Album of Horses, Margeurite Henry

The True or False Book of Horses, Patricia Lauber

The Wild West, Bill O'Neal

The Haymeadow, Gary Paulsen

Videos:

Lewis & Clark, Ken Burns Documentary Film

Pecos Bill, Rabbit Ears Productions

Websites:

www.skipgorman.com

www.cowboypoetry.com

www.lewis-clark.org

Visual Artists to look at:

William Russell

Frederic Remington

Albert Bierstadt

George Catlin

Thomas Cole

Frederick Church

Asher Durand

Martin Heade

John Kensett

George Inness

4. History and Mission of the *Art Encounters Education Program*

The mission of the Art Encounters Education program is to expose and connect area students to a broad base of arts and cultures, through in-school and bus-in arts performances, hands-on workshops, and in-depth artists residencies. The goal is to introduce schools and students to artists and arts experiences from New Hampshire and around the world, which can be an integral part of school curricula and the overall learning process.

The Arts Encounters Program serves over 26 schools and 7500 –10,000 students annually, bringing seven-ten diverse artistic programs into our area schools during the school year. These musical, theatrical, dance, ethnic, and visual programs include in-school presentations and bus-in performances held at Silver Cultural Arts Center at Plymouth State University.

About Friends of the Arts, Regional Arts Council

Mission : To present quality visual and performing arts that are affordable and accessible to children and adults both as observers and participants. We are dedicated to arts education, enrichment and improving the patronage and support of New Hampshire artists.

The History of Friends of the Arts

Friends of the Arts, a non-profit regional arts council, was founded in 1973 by a group of faculty members and representatives from the Plymouth State College community. The organization now serves a geographic region of over 36 small towns (POP.500-5000) in Central New Hampshire. Our programs are designed to reach year-round residents of all ages and backgrounds, and to provide both visual and performing arts experiences at affordable prices. Two major programs provided by Friends of the Arts are the Performing Arts Series and the Art Encounters school performance program. Each year we serve approximately 20,000 children and adults throughout the region. We use the art, music, and theater facilities at Plymouth State College for classes, performances, exhibits and office space; an in-kind donation.

5. Audience Responsibilities: Preparing Students for a Live Presentation

When students attend a live presentation for the first time, they often do not realize how different it is from watching a movie or show on TV. A live presentation has not been pre-recorded, with mistakes edited out. This makes it riskier for the artist and more exciting for the audience. It also means that the audience has a real contribution to make to the overall event. Each audience member affects those around him/her as well as the artist. The more the audience gives to the artist, the more the artist can give to the audience. Because of this important audience role, we suggest teachers pass on the following guidelines to their students:

- **Prepare for the experience** by reading any background information available.
- **Welcome the artists** to your school by clapping after they have been introduced.
- **Give your energy and attention** to the artists. Laugh when you think something the artist is doing is funny. Clap after a song or section you particularly enjoyed.
- **At the end** of the show, clap to show respect for the artists' time and energy. If you were disappointed in the show, clap softly. If you think it's the best show you've ever seen, give the artists a standing ovation.
- **Do not** eat, drink, or chew gum in the presentation space.
- **Use the bathroom facilities before** the performance begins. Please do not get up during the presentation unless absolutely necessary, as this disturbs the people around you as well as the artists.
- **Do not talk** during the presentation as it disturbs the people around you.
- **If there is a question/answer period**, consider asking appropriate questions about what you saw/heard in the presentation, about what it is like to create that kind of presentation, about the country or culture the artist has come from.
- **ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE!**

Dear Parents,

Your child will be experiencing an Art Encounters Education Program presentation on _____ at your school. The visiting New Hampshire musician is Skip Gorman.

A New Hampshire resident, Skip Gorman has a degree in Latin American studies from Brown University and was a full time history and Spanish teacher for twelve years at Suffield Academy in Connecticut and Tilton School in New Hampshire. A two-time New Hampshire Fellowship finalist, Skip lived in Utah for many years and has worked as a cowboy on ranches in Wyoming. He has three cds on the Rounder label, one a finalist for the prestigious Naird Award. His music has been used by Ken Burns in his American life documentaries, *Lewis & Clark* and *Baseball*.

In his travels throughout the country and Europe, Skip has sensed a compelling need for students (particularly those on the East Coast) to become exposed to a version of the history of the West untainted by Hollywood and Nashville's sensationalist view of weaponry and violence. Therefore Skip's focus will be on the care and nurturing of animals, the courage of settlers on the unforgiving prairie, and the excitement of geographical discovery.

Using songs, stories, poetry and a variety of period instruments (minstral banjo, cross-tuned fiddle, harmonica, guitar, cow bones, and limberjack) skip Gorman will lead students through an enriching and enjoyable journey through some fascinating aspects of the history of the real American West.

Please join us for the experience, if you are able!

Sincerely,

Cynthia Robinson
Program Director
Friends of the Arts Regional Arts Council

For more information about this or other Friends of the Arts Regional Arts Council programs, visit our website at www.friends-of-the-arts.org or call our office at 536-1182.

7. Art Encounters Education Program Evaluation Form 2004-2005

Thank you for including this Friends of the Arts Art Encounters Education Program presentation in your school's plan this year! We want to continue to serve you to the highest standards with age-appropriate and curriculum-based performances for your students. We value your professional evaluation and input about the recent Art Encounters performance. Please take a moment to complete this form and return it. Thanks!

- Art Encounters Education Program Presentation: **Skip Gorman**
- # of students attending _____ What grades attended? _____

- How did teachers use the Friendly Clues Study Guide?(check all that apply)
 - Students worked on Skip's activity sheets
 - Teachers introduced students to Skip's background and the information on the West
 - Teachers followed up the presentation by discussing the American West
 - Other? Please Explain _____

- Please rate the Friendly Clues Study Guide information:
 - Not enough info Somewhat useful Useful Excellent

- How do you rate the overall quality of **Skip Gorman's** presentation?
 - Low quality OK Good Excellent

- How do you rate the educational content of the presentation as a whole?
 - Not educational Some applicable content Valuable Educationally Excellent
 Educational Content

- To what extent was there interaction between **Skip Gorman** and the students?
(1 being low, 5 being high) 1 2 3 4 5

- To what extent was the performance appropriate for the age/grades that attended?
1 2 3 4 5

- What do you think your students learned from this experience of **the American West**?

- Do you have any suggestions for the kinds of performers you would like to see us sponsoring?
Any specific curriculum enrichment needs we could research?

- Do you use the NH State Frameworks for the Arts as a guide in your curriculum planning?
- Is there any part of the registration and performance procedures that we could change or improve? How can Friends of the Arts be more effective in serving you?
- Other comments?
- Please return this form to: Friends of the Arts Regional Arts Council, PO Box 386, Plymouth, NH 03264 603-536-1182