2018 WorldClass® Education Program

Virginia International Tattoo

Wednesday, April 25
Thursday, April 26
Friday, April 27
10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Scope Arena, Norfolk

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Generous support has been received from 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution™: Bank of America; Batten Educational Achievement Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation; D. Baker Ames Charitable Foundation; Capital Group Companies; Clark Nexsen; Dollar Tree; Dominion Energy; Enterprise Holdings Foundation; Friedrich Ludwig Diehn Fund of the Hampton Roads Community Foundation; Nordstrom; PRA Group; Ruth Brown Memorial Foundation; Sandler Center Foundation; SunTrust; Tidewater Children’s Foundation; USAA; Virginia Commission for the Arts; Virginia Lottery; Wells Fargo; and the following cities and counties and/or their Arts and Humanities Commissions: Chesapeake, James City County, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg.
What in the World's a Tattoo?

Doe den tap toe!

That's Dutch for "Turn off the taps!" It's a phrase used four hundred years ago when British soldiers were stationed in the Low Countries, now the Netherlands and Belgium. When the troops weren't off fighting, they joined the local townspeople at taverns and inns, enjoying fellowship and drinking ale.

To summon the soldiers back to their quarters for the night, a single military drummer would march through the towns beating a "doe den tap toe" message to the innkeepers to turn off the ale taps, or stop serving ale.

This signal was eventually trimmed to "tap toe" and then "tattoo," perhaps because of the drum's "rat-a-tat" sound. But while its name was shortened, the size and scope of the ceremony grew as the British army brought the tradition back home to the United Kingdom.

Over the centuries, music and marching were added to the tattoo. Massed military bands dressed in colorful uniforms and playing drums, fifes, bagpipes, and other instruments marched in impressive formations. The tattoo, once a simple command to close the taverns, became a mighty display of military pageantry.

In Scotland, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, established in 1950, is one of the most popular of these exhibitions. Every year 200,000 people attend the tattoo at historic Edinburgh Castle.

Other countries also host tattoos, such as the Norwegian Military Tattoo and the Royal Nova Scotia Tattoo of Canada. Each event is different and shaped by the culture of the country in which it is presented. Today, most tattoos include civilian entertainment as well as military bands and honor performers from nations outside of the host nation.
Every year the Virginia International Tattoo brings together a cast of a thousand performers from around the world in a spectacular exhibition of music, marching, and much more. Massed pipes and drums, drill teams, marching bands, dancers, and choirs perform together, creating the largest show of its kind in the United States. Renowned as the most patriotic of the world’s great tattoos, the Virginia International Tattoo this year will celebrate recipients of the prestigious Medal of Honor. The tattoo’s participants will pay tribute to veterans and their families with an astounding display of patriotism, international cooperation, and inspirational music.

2018 Virginia International Tattoo Cast

BELGIUM
Royal Band of the Belgian Air Force

CANADA
Canadian Forces Base Trenton 8 Wing Pipes and Drums
Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders

ITALY
11th Bersaglieri Regiment Fanfare Band

NEW ZEALAND
The Highland Dance Company of New Zealand

NORWAY
The Band and Drill Team of His Majesty the King’s Guard

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
New Ross & District Pipe Band

REPUBLIC OF KOREA
Traditional Army Band of the Republic of Korea
Yepuri Dance Team

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Granby High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps
Hampton Roads Police Color Guards
Old Dominion University Concert Choir
U.S. Army 3d Infantry Caisson Platoon
U.S. Army 3d Infantry Tomb Guard Platoon
U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command Band
U.S. Marine Corps Band, Quantico
U.S Marine Corps FAST Company
U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Band
Virginia Children’s Chorus
Virginia Symphony Orchestra Chorus

MULTINATIONAL
Headquarters Supreme Allied Commander Transformation Multinational Ceremonial Detail, NATO
The Virginia International Tattoo is an extravaganza of amazing sights and incredible sounds. Here's what you will see and hear:

**Musical instruments:** Long ago, before radio or digital communications, musical instruments were a vital part of military life. Drums provided rhythms for marching. Bugles, trumpets, and fifes relayed orders from commanders to soldiers in the field. In the UK, Scottish bagpipers served in the military as far back as the 1600s. As the bagpipes were played into battle, their big, bold sound lifted the troops' spirits and struck fear in the hearts of the enemy.

**Marching:** In most countries, marching is part of basic military training. Obeying marching orders, known as drill commands, requires discipline. To march in formation, or as a single unit, each individual in the group must keep in mind his or her dress, cover, interval, and distance. Dress: alignment with the person to either side Cover: alignment with the person in front Interval: space between the person to either side Distance: space between the person in front

**Military uniforms:** You may wear a uniform at school, in your scout troop, or for your sports team. The uniform identifies you as a member of that group. Members of military organizations wear uniforms to show that they belong to the armed forces of a particular nation. A country’s military uniform often reflects its history and tradition. In the U.K., for instance, soldiers from the Scottish Highlands wore tartan—what we in America call plaid—into battle. In that mountainous area of Scotland, the various clans who lived there could be distinguished by the unique colors and patterns of their tartan kilts.

**Dancing:** The Highland dance style comes from the Highlands area of Scotland. It is a technical form of dance requiring great strength and stamina. It's believed that centuries ago Scottish soldiers used Highland dancing as exercise to keep fit for battle. Until the early twentieth century, Highland dancing was performed mostly by men. During the World Wars, Scottish women learned to dance too, preserving the tradition while the men were away. Today, both males and females dance. Highland dance students practice many hours and train for many years. The laced leather shoes Highland dancers wear are called ghillies.
The Medal of Honor

In April 1862, during the Civil War, Private Jacob Parrott of the Union army took part in a daring raid in Georgia, sneaking deep into Confederate territory and hijacking a railroad train in an attempt to destroy the bridges and tracks on the supply line between Chattanooga and Atlanta. Though he and others were captured, Parrott was eventually returned to the Union in a prisoner exchange in March 1863. That same month, for his outstanding bravery, Parrott was the first to be given a special award, recently signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln: the Medal of Honor.

Since then, a select group of U.S. military members have been recognized for their incredible acts of courage and heroism with the Medal of Honor. The 2018 Virginia International Tattoo honors and applauds these brave individuals.

Here’s what to know about the United States of America’s most prestigious military award.

What is the Medal of Honor?
The Medal of Honor is the United States’ highest military award for valor, or great courage in the face of danger. It is awarded by the president on behalf of Congress, so it’s also referred to as the Congressional Medal of Honor.

There are three distinct versions of the Medal of Honor— one for the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard; one for the U.S. Army; and one for the U.S. Air Force.

How and why was the Medal of Honor created?
General George Washington had created the Badge of Military Merit in 1782 (later revived as the Purple Heart), but it was rarely used after the Revolutionary War. Special decorations were still too closely related to European royalty to be embraced by the American people. But it became clear during the fierce fighting of the Civil War that brave deeds and valorous battlefield acts needed special recognition.

So in December 1861, Senator James W. Grimes of Iowa introduced a bill in the United States Senate designed to "promote the efficiency of the Navy" by authorizing the production and distribution of "medals of honor." The bill passed, permitting two hundred such medals to be created "which shall be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen and marines as shall distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action and other seamanlike qualities during the present war [Civil War]." President Lincoln signed the bill, and the Navy Medal of Honor was born.

Two months later, in February 1862, Senator Henry Wilson of Massachusetts introduced a similar bill, this one to authorize "the President to distribute medals to privates in the Army of the United States who shall distinguish themselves in battle." Over the following months, the wording was changed slightly as the bill made its way through Congress. When President Abraham Lincoln signed it in July 1862, the Army Medal of Honor was born.
It read in part: “Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to cause two thousand ‘medals of honor’ to be prepared with suitable emblematic devices, and to direct that the same be presented, in the name of the Congress, to such non-commissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldier-like qualities, during the present insurrection [Civil War].”

How are Medal of Honor recipients selected?
According to the U.S. Department of Defense, the award is reserved for those who “distinguish themselves through gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty:
• while engaged in action against an enemy of the United States;
• while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
• while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.”

Additionally, the person’s heroic deed must have been “one of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his comrades and must have involved risk of life.” Proof of the person’s brave action is required, and each recommendation for the award is “considered on the standard of extraordinary merit.” Nominations come either from the individual’s military chain of command or from a member of Congress.

What does the Medal of Honor look like? How is it presented to recipients?
All three Medals of Honor are in the shape of a five-pointed star, with various symbols and decoration within and around the star: laurel and oak leaves; Minerva, the Roman goddess of wisdom and strategic warfare; the Statue of Liberty’s head; and more. Since the design of the Air Force Medal of Honor in 1956, all three awards hang from a light-blue neck ribbon, the center of which features thirteen white stars, symbolizing the original thirteen colonies.

Since 1980, almost all Medals of Honor have been presented by the current president, who is also commander in chief of the nation’s armed forces, to recipients (or next-of-kin if the individual is deceased) in a special ceremony.

In 2002, Congress authorized creation of a Medal of Honor flag to also be presented to every award recipient or family of deceased recipients. The flag resembles the ribbon, featuring thirteen white stars on a field of light blue, bordered with gold fringe.

How many people have received the Medal of Honor?
To date, there have been 3,517 total recipients, with nearly half of those awards going to Civil War veterans. Of all recipients, 71 are currently living, and 19 have received the award twice for separate acts of valor.

Who are some of the people who’ve been awarded the Medal of Honor?
Most of the award’s recipients aren’t household names—like Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta, the first living recipient from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, who charged into enemy fire to try to save a comrade; or Army Staff Sgt. Melvin Morris, who in Vietnam singlehandedly destroyed an enemy force with a bag of grenades in a series of bunkers.
Others are better known, like the two pairs of father-and-son recipients: Lt. Arthur MacArthur (Civil War) and his son General Douglas MacArthur (WWII), and Lt. Col. (later President) Theodore Roosevelt (Spanish American War) and his son Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt Jr. (WWII).

President Theodore Roosevelt is the only president to be awarded the Medal of Honor, on January 16, 2001, many decades after his death, for his gallantry in charging up San Juan Hill during the Spanish American War.

Has a woman ever been awarded the Medal of Honor?
Dr. Mary Walker was the first and only woman so far awarded the Medal of Honor. During the Civil War, she volunteered with the Union army, was captured after crossing enemy lines to treat wounded civilians, and was held as a prisoner. After the war, President Andrew Johnson signed a bill to permit her medal, as she was not a member of the military. She is also one of only eight civilians to receive the Medal of Honor.

Who was the first African American recipient?
Army Sgt. William Carney, born into slavery in Norfolk, was the first African American Medal of Honor recipient. After being granted his freedom, Carney joined the first black unit of the Union army when the Civil War broke out. In their charge on Fort Wagner in Charleston, SC, the flag bearer was shot. Carney, suffering several gunshots himself, caught the falling flag, crawled uphill with it, and planted it at the base of the fort, never once letting it touch the ground.

How many minority recipients of the Medal of Honor have been awarded?
There have been 87 African American, 41 Hispanic American, 31 Asian American, and 22 Native American Medal of Honor recipients.

What is the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation?
Though it is presented in the name of Congress, the official name of the award is the “Medal of Honor,” and does not include the word “Congressional.” In 1958, President Dwight Eisenhower signed legislation sent to him by Congress chartering the “Congressional Medal of Honor Society” to create a bond of brotherhood and comradeship among all living recipients of the Medal of Honor. The CMOH Society then created the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation to support and perpetuate the legacy of the Medal of Honor and its recipients.

Sources:
Congressional Medal of Honor Society
www.cmohs.com
Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation
www.themedalofhonor.com
Medal of Honor Historical Society of the United States
www.mohhsus.com
U.S. Department of Defense, Military Awards for Valor
www.valor.defense.gov

Mary Edwards Walker. wikipedia.org
Spotlight on Belgium

Capital: Brussels
Official Language: Dutch, French, and German

Nestled among France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Germany, the Kingdom of Belgium is geographically one of Europe’s smallest countries. But it’s also one of Europe’s most densely populated. People love living in Belgium—here’s why!

Belgium is a beautiful and vibrant place, blending the old with the new, medieval castles and Gothic cathedrals with avant-garde art museums and hip cafes. From the historic architecture and canals in cities like Bruges and Ghent—both allow only foot and bicycle traffic in their centers—to the picturesque countryside of the Ardennes region, with its rolling hills, rivers, and forests, there’s plenty of intriguing scenery to explore.

The country is divided according to the main languages spoken there. In the north, the Flemings speak Flemish Dutch, similar to the Dutch spoken by Belgium’s northern neighbors in the Netherlands. To the south, near the borders with France and Germany, the Walloons speak French primarily. German speakers can mostly be found near the eastern border with Germany. The centrally located capital of Brussels is multilingual, including English. Brussels is home to strategic multinational alliances like the European Union and NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Art is an important part of Belgian culture. You may be familiar with the work of some of Belgium’s most famous painters: Peter Paul Rubens is considered one of the Baroque (about 1660–1750) period’s greatest artists with his highly decorative, richly expressive canvases in bold colors. René Magritte painted in the imagination-focused Surrealist style of the early twentieth century; he’s best known for his images of bowler-hatted men, their faces obscured by objects like a floating apple or bird.

With its central European location, Belgium was the scene of many fierce battles in World Wars I and II. Germany invaded and occupied the country in both conflicts. War cemeteries, memorials, bunkers, and museums now dot East and West Flanders, part of a broader area known as Flanders Fields stretching from the northwestern corner of Belgium into France. Flanders Fields was part of the Western Front, the front line of conflict in WW I. There, hundreds of
The red poppy of Flanders Fields is a universal symbol to honor those lost in war. During WWI, masses of red poppies sprang up on the battlegrounds across Flanders Fields. A Canadian medical doctor stationed there in 1915 penned a poem memorializing the fallen, called “In Flanders Fields.” It began, “In Flanders fields the poppies blow...” Since then, people wear the red poppy in remembrance of all those who gave their lives in wars.

Hampton Roads has its own special connection with Belgium. The Ghent neighborhood of Norfolk is believed to have been named for the Belgian city. Some historians say that one of the community’s first residents, Jaspar Moran, named it after the city where the treaty ending the War of 1812 was signed in Belgium, to commemorate the conclusion of a conflict he’d fought in. Others say another resident, Commodore Richard Drummond, chose the name after his ship ferried the actual copy of the treaty across the Atlantic.

In Belgium, there are several kinds of waffles: the fluffy Brussels waffle with deep pockets and a rectangular shape; the denser, sweeter, square Liège waffle; and the Flemish waffle, round and topped with orange blossom water. The Belgian waffle we know in the States is a variation of the Brussels waffle, first introduced in North America at the Seattle World’s Fair in 1962.

Belgian chocolate is considered among the world’s finest. A major industry since the 19th century, today it forms an important part of the nation’s economy and culture.

Learn more at:
National Geographic Kids
https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/belgium

Did You Know?

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Sources: Coat of arms of Belgium, redrawn by Sodacan, wikipedia.org
Capital: Ottawa  
Official Language: **English and French**

With a third of its land located within the Arctic Circle, it’s no wonder Canada’s often referred to as the Great White North! Those arctic regions stay frozen for up to nine months a year, so most Canadians live near the country’s border with the United States, where the climate is milder. And that border? At 5,525 miles, it’s the longest international boundary in the world.

Canada is a vast country—the second largest on the globe—with areas of rugged mountains, forested valleys, and rolling plains. Many native Canadians, also called First Nations people, live in the icy north. They hunt and fish amid the glaciers, just as their ancestors did when they arrived in North America from Asia thousands of years ago.

Half of Canada is covered with forests. Forest wildlife includes bears, deer, wolves, moose, and beaver, the country’s official animal. Arctic creatures such as caribou, polar bears, and seals live in the frozen north. There are thousands of lakes in Canada, which, along with the country’s rivers, contain almost 20 percent of all fresh water on the planet. Niagara Falls, the most powerful waterfall in North America and a popular tourist attraction, is shared by both Canada and the United States.

The first non-native to reach Canada was Viking explorer Leif Eriksson around 1000 CE. British and French settlers arrived in the 1500s, but disagreements between fur traders and farmers resulted in a series of wars between 1689 and 1763. The British kept control of Canada after the last of these conflicts, the French and Indian War, but the French influence remains. Canada became an independent nation in 1931, though it still recognizes the Queen of Great Britain as its head of state.

Canada is made up of ten provinces and three territories. Canada’s population is diverse, including First Nations peoples and descendants of the British and French settlers, plus other European and Asian immigrants. Though Canada is slightly larger than the United States, it has only 11 percent as many people. It is one of the least densely populated countries in the world.
The distinctive maple leaf on the Canadian flag is a time-honored symbol of the country’s heritage. Long before the first European settlers arrived, Canada’s native peoples discovered that maple sap, which they gathered every spring, could be used as food. The maple leaf became a Canadian symbol as early as 1700, appearing in military and government settings, on currency, even in song. The red maple leaf design became the official flag of Canada in 1965.

Another well-known symbol of Canadian culture is the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The Mounties are Canada’s national police force. Established in 1873 to keep law and order in the country’s untamed northwest, the Mounties rode horseback in their bright-red dress uniforms. Today, the Mounties patrol in vehicles, showing off their horse riding skills only in public exhibitions.

Did You Know?

A body of water in the Canadian province of Manitoba is called Lake Pekwachnamaykoskwaskwaypinwanik. What a mouthful! The name is Cree for “where the wild trout are caught by fishing with hooks.”

Drumheller Valley in the province of Alberta is home to many dinosaur fossils, earning its nickname of the Dinosaur Capital of the World.

The province of Quebec produces most of the world’s maple syrup. Pancakes, anyone?

Learn more at:
National Geographic Kids
www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/canada
Spotlight on Italy

Capital: **Rome**  
Official Language: **Italian**

Who doesn’t love pizza and pasta? But there’s so much more to adore about Italy than its delicious food. How about the country’s beautiful scenery, amazing history, and remarkable contributions to arts and science?

On a map of Europe, Italy’s easy to find—it’s shaped like a high-heeled boot kicking a soccer ball! It’s a peninsula, a land mass surrounded by water on three sides, so there’s plenty of coastline. Its location on the Mediterranean Sea made it an important part of many ancient civilizations’ trade routes. In the north, the picturesque Italian Alps separate the country from France, Switzerland, Austria, and Slovenia.

Though Italy’s first societies developed around 1200 BCE, starting in the eighth century BCE Rome grew from a small town into an empire that would ultimately include most of Europe, western Asia, and northern Africa. The Roman Empire left many lasting legacies: the Romance languages (Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Romanian) derived from Latin, the language of ancient Rome; our modern alphabet and calendar; ideas about law, government, and politics; and technological innovations we now take for granted such as roads, central heating, and plumbing. The Roman Empire fell in the fifth century CE, ushering in the Middle (or Dark) Ages, when much of what was learned earlier was lost.

Between the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries in Italy and eventually across Europe, the Renaissance, or “rebirth,” period embraced new ideas about the value of art, literature, philosophy, science, education, and more. Famous Italian artists, like Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci, scholars and poets like Petrarch, scientists like Galileo, and explorers like Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci were part of the Renaissance.

Many of the inspiring works of art and architecture from both the days of the Roman Empire and the Renaissance can still be seen in Italy. The ruins of the Colosseum, a massive stone amphitheater completed in 80 CE and used for gladiator battles in front of spectators, can be seen in Rome. The Duomo, or “dome,” of the Santa Maria del Fiore cathedral...
in Florence is an engineering and architectural wonder completed by Renaissance designer Filippo Brunellesco.

Another marvel of Italian engineering is the city of Venice. As they escaped from invaders after the fall of the Roman Empire, some people fled to the marshy islands of Italy’s northeast coastline. To keep their homes dry, they built them atop wooden stakes driven deep into the mud. The wood, submerged in saltwater over the centuries, petrified, making it as strong and stable as stone. To get around, Venetians use a clever system of canals, ferrying from place to place in light, flat-bottomed boats called gondolas.

**Learn more at:**
Learn more at National Geographic Kids
https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/italy

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**Did You Know?**

- Stromboli volcano. The World Factbook, CIA.
- The Cathedral and Leaning Bell Tower in Pisa. The World Factbook, CIA.
- An uncooked Neapolitan pizza on a metal peel, ready for the oven. wikipedia.org

Italy is the only continental European country with active volcanoes: Mounts Stromboli, Etna, and Vesuvius. An 79 CE eruption of Vesuvius buried the entire city of Pompeii; its ruins weren’t rediscovered until the eighteenth century.

Ever wonder why the Leaning Tower of Pisa leans? The freestanding bell tower in the city of Pisa was built on soft ground, causing it to tilt. The tower took 344 years to construct, beginning in 1173. Today, the “lean” has been stabilized so it won’t tilt any farther.

Pizza as we know it was born in the Italian city of Naples in 1889, and Italians each eat an estimated seventy pounds of pasta every year. Yum!
Capital: Wellington
Official Language: English/Maori

Spectacular glaciers, rugged mountains, a volcanic plateau, and miles of coastline with sandy beaches—New Zealand has it all!

Located 1,000 miles from Australia in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, New Zealand consists of two main islands, North and South, plus smaller islands offshore. A “spine” of mountain ranges runs through the middle of the North Island, with gentle rolling farmland on both sides. An active volcanic area dominates central North Island. The massive Southern Alps form the backbone of the South Island.

New Zealand’s rich history reflects its unique mix of Maori and European culture. The Maori people were the first to arrive in New Zealand—or Aotearoa, the “Land of the Long White Cloud”—journeying in canoes from Polynesia about 1,000 years ago. A Dutchman, Abel Tasman, was the first European to sight the country, but the British eventually made New Zealand part of their empire.

In 1840 the British and Maori signed the Treaty of Waitangi. It established British law in New Zealand and is considered New Zealand’s founding document and an important part of the country’s history. New Zealand gained its independence from the British in 1947.

With its patchwork of Maori, European, Pacific Island, and Asian cultures, New Zealand is a melting-pot population. Today, of the 4.4 million New Zealanders (informally known as Kiwis, after the country’s flightless bird), three-quarters live on the North Island, with one-third of the total population living in the city of Auckland.

Because of New Zealand’s remote location, until humans arrived, there were no mammals on the islands, except for those that could swim there (seals, sea lions, whales) or fly there (bats). Without natural predators, birds didn’t need to fly, so New Zealand is home to an unusually large population of flightless birds, like the kiwi. Birds and insects evolved to take the ecological place of mammals, resulting in some very unusual species. The giant weta, for
instance, is a cricket-like creature that weighs three times more than a mouse, making it one of the world’s heaviest insects!

New Zealanders are known for their innovation and ingenuity. Kiwi scientist Sir Ernest Rutherford was the first to split the atom in 1919. Famous Kiwi inventions include frozen meat, the propeller-free Hamilton jet boat, the wind-powered recreational vehicle called the Blokart, and the bungee jump. Indeed, Kiwis seem to excel at outdoor sports; New Zealand mountaineer and explorer Sir Edmund Hillary was the first to climb to the top of Mount Everest in 1953. He also reached both the South and North Poles.

Learn more at:
National Geographic Kids
http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/new-zealand

Did You Know?

New Zealand was the first country to give women the right to vote in 1893.

While the kiwifruit is one of New Zealand’s greatest exports, it is actually native to northern China, and is also known as the Chinese gooseberry.

The Lord of the Rings movies were filmed in New Zealand.
Capital: **Oslo**  
Official Language: **Norwegian**

A land of countless natural wonders, Norway is one of three northern European countries—Sweden and Denmark are the other two—that make up the region called Scandinavia. The land is etched with many fjords (FEE-ords), long, narrow inlets of the sea between steep cliffs. Fjords were carved by glaciers thousands of years ago when this area was covered in a massive sheet of ice.

Glaciers, big and small, can still be found in Norway. These bodies of ice are in constant motion. They shrink and grow, shift shape and direction, and even change color. Parts of a glacier can grow several hundred feet in just a few years. Norway also has many mountains—some so steep no one has dared to climb them!

Norway is often called the Land of the Midnight Sun because during summer, the sun never sets. The midnight sun is a natural phenomenon that occurs in the world’s northernmost regions, above the Arctic Circle. This includes parts of Norway. The midnight sun occurs because the earth’s axis tilts toward the sun in summer.

People have lived in Norway since around 8000 BCE. When Germanic tribes settled in the area, farming replaced hunting and gathering. Farm communities became small, independent states. From 700 to 1100 CE, the adventurous Vikings set out from Scandinavia for new lands. The word “Viking” comes from Old Norse, the Scandinavian language of the time, and means “a pirate raid.” Some Vikings sailed to other countries, such as England, to fight and steal treasure. Others settled in new lands, like Scotland, as farmers, craftsmen, or traders.

In 872, King Harald Fairhair united the independent states of Norway. After King Harald died, Denmark and Sweden invaded Norway. Rule of Norway passed between Denmark and Sweden, and in 1397 the three countries were brought together as the Union of Kalmar under Danish Queen Margrethe.
The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded in Oslo, Norway, every year. This important honor is given to individuals who’ve done exceptional work reducing the possibility of war and promoting peace between nations.

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Skiing has long been an important part of Norwegian life. Many children learn to ski when they are just two or three. The word "ski" comes from the Old Norse word skio, which means "stick of wood." Norwegians invented ski waxing, the modern ski binding, and the laminated ski.

The Sami, sometimes referred to as Lapps, are the indigenous, or native, people of far northern Norway. They are semi-nomadic and herd reindeer.

Learn more at:
National Geographic Kids
https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/norway/

Famous Norwegians include explorer Roald Amundsen, who discovered the South Pole; composer Edvard Grieg; artist Edvard Munch, who painted the well-known canvas The Scream; and playwright Henrik Ibsen.
Capital: **Dublin**  
Official Language: **Irish (Gaelic) and English**

An enchanting island of lush green landscapes—rolling hills, leafy trees, vast grasslands. No wonder Ireland’s nickname is the Emerald Isle! It’s also known as “the land of a thousand welcomes” because its people are so friendly.

Ireland sits on the western edge of Europe. Most of the island is comprised of the Republic of Ireland, with a small portion to the north belonging to Northern Ireland, a separate country that’s part of the United Kingdom (which also includes England, Scotland, and Wales). The entire island was once ruled by the UK, but the Republic of Ireland declared its independence in 1922.

Along with its beautiful greenery, Ireland boasts rocky cliffs that soar above the Atlantic Ocean and Irish Sea that surround it. Ireland was once covered by glaciers, and their movement thousands of years ago created the island’s distinctive topography. As the ice receded, it left lakes, rivers, and peat bogs. Peat is partially decayed plant material; it can be dried and used as fuel. For centuries, the Irish used peat for cooking and heating.

Inhabited since the Stone Age, Ireland is steeped in history. Around 700 BCE, a group of fierce warriors from Europe called the Celts arrived in Ireland, bringing with them their own customs and language, Gaelic. Gaelic remains one of Ireland’s national languages and is still taught in school.

In the ninth century CE, Ireland was frequently raided by Nordic Vikings; the invaders’ settlements would eventually become some of Ireland’s important cities, such as Dublin, the nation’s capital. Two hundred years later, Norman Vikings who’d already conquered England took Ireland too. It would take more than seven hundred years for Ireland to finally win its full independence.

For protection against the frequent invaders during the medieval period, massive stone castles were built throughout Ireland. The larger castles were used to house local people and their possessions during times of warfare. Many of these impressive structures still stand today.
The Irish have a rich tradition of music, dancing, poetry, and storytelling. Irish folklore is full of fantastic tales, like those of winged fairies, tiny leprechauns with pots of gold, or the country’s patron saint, Patrick. During the fifth century CE, Patrick taught many Irish people about Christianity. Legend has it that he used the shamrock, a native clover with three leaves, in his religious teachings. The mythology around St. Patrick has become so well known that now people in many countries honor this famous Irish figure on the day of his death, March 17, known as St. Patrick’s Day.

Learn more at:
National Geographic Kids
https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/ireland

Did You Know?

The Shamrock, a typical Irish clover.
George McFinnigan. wikipedia.org

Blarney Stone, County Cork, Ireland.
wikipedia.org


With its connection to St. Patrick, the shamrock is a symbol of Ireland. The four-leaf clover, a “lucky charm,” is a rare variation of the shamrock and is not linked to St. Patrick’s Day.

Have you ever heard of someone “kissing the Blarney stone”? People visit Blarney Castle to plant a smacker on a stone high atop the Irish fortress’s six-hundred-year-old walls. Why? Legend has it the stone gives the kisser the Irish “gift of gab,” or wise and witty speech. Pucker up!

Many words in the English language came from the Irish, like banshee, hooligan, and slogan.
The Korean Peninsula in eastern Asia is divided into north and south. Republic of Korea is the official name of South Korea. South Korea is a modern, vibrant country that cherishes its traditional culture. It’s home to mountains, forests, and jungles, as well as bustling metropolitan cities.

Korea wasn’t always split into north and south. Asian settlers developed early Korean civilization from 3000 BCE. Through the centuries, Korea was invaded and conquered by several groups, including the Chinese, Mongols, and Japanese. In the 1900s both the Chinese and the Russians tried to invade Korea but were fought off by Japan, which added Korea to its empire.

When Japan lost World War II, Korea was divided into two parts along the 38th parallel – the circle of latitude at 38° N. The Soviet Union took control of the area north of the line; the United States took control of the south. The division was supposed to be temporary, but it remains today, with North Korea under communist rule.

In 1950 North Korea invaded South Korea, which resulted in the Korean War, the first major conflict of the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States of America. With the help of forces from sixteen nations, South Korea defended itself against communist takeover. Now there’s a two-mile demilitarized zone, or "no man’s land", at the 38th parallel.

South Korea is a beautiful country with four distinct seasons, like the United States. It’s very densely populated, with lots of people—more than 48 million—living close together, especially in the cities. Its citizens are influenced by the Chinese philosophy of Confucianism, which emphasizes respect and morality.

South Korea’s economy is one of the strongest in Eastern Asia. It manufactures and exports ships and cars, computers, cell phones, TVs, and other electronics. You’re probably familiar with another of its exports, "K-pop," or Korean pop music. K-pop artist Psy’s 2012 worldwide smash hit "Gangnam Style" refers to the lifestyle of the Gangnam area.
of the capital city of Seoul; K-pop acts EXO and CL recently performed at the South Korea–hosted 2018 Winter Olympics. And if you’ve ever tasted a spicy pickled cabbage dish called kimchi, you’ve sampled another of the country’s cultural exports.

Learn more at:
National Geographic Kids
https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/countries/ireland

The “Bridge of No Return” in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea was used for prisoner exchanges at the close of the Korean War. The World Factbook, CIA.

Did You Know?

Robots at school? You bet! South Korea’s “R-Learning” (the R is for robot) program puts robots in classrooms to assist with teaching.

South Korea’s Boryeong Mud Festival is an annual ten-day celebration of—you guessed it—mud! Revelers enjoy mud wrestling, mud marathons, and mud photo contests.

South Koreans are so fond of the sweet potato, they use it to flavor chips, cake, ice cream, and even latte.
What to Know About NATO

- NATO stands for North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

- NATO is a political and military alliance of twenty-nine North American and European countries. These nations work together to best pursue security and defense of their shared democratic values.

- In addition to the United States, NATO member nations include Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

- At NATO’s core is the principle of collective defense, which says that an attack on one NATO member nation is considered an attack on all.

- Founded in 1949, NATO played a unique role in maintaining stability and security in the trans-Atlantic area during the Cold War. The Cold War, which developed after World War II, was the undeclared battle for global power between the democratic USA and communist USSR, or Soviet Union. The Cold War ended in 1991 when the USSR dissolved into several independent republics.

- NATO’s more recent operations include security missions in Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Libya, counter-piracy efforts off the Horn of Africa, and humanitarian and disaster relief efforts around the world.

Learn more at:
http://www.nato.int/nato-welcome


VIRGINIA STANDARDS OF LEARNING

Dance: DM.14–16; DI.12, 13, 18; DII.18

Music: K.9; 1.10; 2.7–8; 3.9; 4.7–8; 5.8, 10; EI.18; 6.7; 7.7; 8.7; MIB.19; MII.18; MIAD.18; MG.17; MCB.7; MCI.7; MCAD.7; HG.8; HIB.19; HII.18; HIAD.20; HIAR.20; HGI.17; HGII.17; HCB.7; HCI.7; HCAD.7; HCAR.7

English: K.10, 1.10, 2.9, 3.6, 4.6, 5.6, 6.6, 7.6, 8.6, 9.5, 10.5, 11.5, 12.5

History and Social Science: 3.1, 6; WHI.1, 6, 13; WHII.1; WG.1, 2, 5, 7, 10

Science: 1.5, 7; 2.5, 7; 3.6, 10; 4.5; 5.7

We need your feedback to make our Education Programs even better! Please take a moment to complete this form and either return it to the Virginia Arts Festival office at 440 Bank Street, Norfolk, VA 23510, fax it to (757) 605-3080, or e-mail your answers to education@vafest.org.

WorldClass® Event: ____________________________________________________________

How did your students respond to the performance?

How did you prepare your students for this performance? Did you use the Education Guide? If so, how? Did students enjoy the materials?

How did this performance contribute to experiential learning in your classroom?

What role do the arts play in your school? In your classroom?

If you could change one thing about this experience, what would it be?

Please include quotes and comments from your students as well!

(Optional)
Name: ______________________________________________________________________
School: _____________________________________________________________________ City: ______________________________
Would you like to be part of our database? □ Yes □ No
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