

Library of Congress LIVE presents:



SPÆLIMENNIR

Pan Scandinavian Music and Storytelling

October 21, 2003

A Learning Guide for Teachers:

This handout is designed to help you and your students enjoy, prepare for, and discuss the performance by *Spælímenningar*. Included inside are background information, vocabulary of key words, an introduction to our co-sponsors, and student activities.

Contents:

- ★ About our Co-sponsors
- ★ Spælímenningar - "The Folk Musicians"
- ★ What is Scandinavia?
- ★ Student Activities
- ★ Vocabulary of keywords in this guide

★ **Additional resources**

About Our Co-Sponsors:

The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world, with more than 120 million items in more than 400 languages. Founded in 1800, and the oldest federal cultural institution in the nation, it is the research arm of the United States Congress and is recognized as the national library of the United States.



Library of Congress LIVE presents educational outreach programs throughout the school year.

Learn more at: www.loc.gov/kidslc

The American Folklife Center was created in 1976 by the U.S. Congress to “preserve and present” the great heritage of American folklife through programs of research, documentation, archival preservation, reference service, live performance, exhibition, publications, and training. The American Folklife Center includes the Archive of Folk Culture, established at the Library of Congress in 1928, and now one of the largest collections of ethnographic material from the United States and around the world.



Meet Spælímninnir. . . “The Folk Musicians”

Spælímninnir is a lively group of six musicians who play traditional and contemporary folk music from Scandinavia on fiddle, recorder, piano, guitar, mandolin and acoustic bass and vocals. The group's home base is the Faroe Islands in the far North Atlantic between Iceland, Norway and Scotland. While they are based in the Faroes, Spælímninnir is not strictly a “Faroese” band. Playing together for over 20 years, the members include one native Faroese, one Swede, two Americans and two Danes. The music they play reflects each member's heritage and illustrates the links between the music traditions of the Scandinavian countries and the United States. Learn more at: www.spaelimennir.com

Program Goals:

Students will experience Scandinavian music, story and dance as an overview of Scandinavian folk culture. Through performance, students will learn about the political, geographic, and cultural boundaries of Scandinavia; and will become acquainted with the elements of folk culture that tie this region together.

Education Standards:

MUSIC (Consortium of National Arts Education Associations)

Standard 9 - Understand music in relation to history and culture.

LANGUAGE ARTS (National Council of Teachers of English)

Use listening and observation skills to gain an understanding.

Standard 9 - Develop an understanding of and respect for diversity in language use, patterns, and dialects across cultures, ethnic groups, geographic regions, and social roles.

GEOGRAPHY (National Geographic)

Standard 4 - Places and Regions: The physical and human characteristics of places.

Standard 9 - Human Systems: The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on Earth's surface.

Standard 10 - Human Systems: The characteristics, distributions, and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics.

Standard 12 - Human Systems: The process, patterns, and functions of human settlement.

SOCIAL STUDIES (National Council of Social Studies)

Strand I - Culture: Experiences that provide for the study of culture and cultural diversity.

Strand II - Time, Continuity and Change:

Experiences that provide for the study of the ways human beings view themselves in and over time.

Strand III - People, Places and Environments:

Analyzing human behavior in relation to its physical and cultural environment.



What is Scandinavia?

The boundaries of Scandinavia can be described in several ways: geographic, political, and historical or cultural. The first printed map of the Nordic countries, a portion of which is reproduced on the cover of this learning guide, was created by Olaus Magnus in 1539. On it, the term “Scandia” is used to describe the peninsula that includes Norway and Sweden. In the 17th century, this geographic area became known as Scandinavia. Culturally speaking, Scandinavia includes Norway and Sweden, as well as Denmark, Iceland, and Finland as countries strongly connected through migration and trade. They also share a common history dating to the Viking Age. Today, these countries jointly refer to themselves as the Nordic Region, which recognizes both their cultural heritage and contemporary political outlook. (Image available at: WonderClub.com)

Resources for Teachers:

The following lesson plans can help you prepare your students for **Spælímenenir**:

Fairy Tales, Then and Now

National Geographic Xpeditions

www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/lessons/10/g35/grimm.html

Students will examine fairy tales and identify the geographic information described in the stories. Students can then write their own fairy tales.

Vikings: The North Atlantic Saga

National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution <http://www.mnh.si.edu/vikings/start.html>
Students will learn about the early Scandinavian civilization and its expansion into western Europe and North America.

BOOKS

For Teachers

Lone Thygesen Blecher, ed., **Swedish Folktales and Legends**. Pantheon Books, 1995.

Jonathan Wylie, **The Ring of Dancers: Images of Faroese Culture**. Philadelphia: University of Philadelphia Press, 1981.

Elias Lonnrot, **The Kalevala: An Epic Poem after Oral Tradition**. Oxford, N.Y.: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Translation of the traditional Finnish tale.

SCANDINAVIAN FOLKTALES

For Students

Chris Conover, **The Wizard's Daughter: A Viking Legend**. Boston: Little, Brown, 1984. Retelling of a Danish folktale.

Tony De Gerez, **Louhi, Witch of North Farm: A Story from Finland's Epic Poem, the Kalevala**. New York: Viking Kestrel, 1986. Grades 3 and up.

Virginia Haviland, **Favorite Fairy Tales Told in Denmark**. New York: Beech Tree Books, 1995. Grades 3 and up.

Jack Kent, **Socks for Supper**. New York: Parent's Magazine Press, 1993. Re-telling of a Danish folktale.

Anita Lobel, **King Rooster, Queen Hen**. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1975.

Danish folktale for beginning readers.

Margaret Read MacDonald, **Fat Cat: A Danish Folktale**. Little Rock, Ark.: August House, 2001. Grades 4 and up.

Ann McGovern and Nola Langner, **Half a Kingdom: An Icelandic Folktale**. Viking Press, 1997. Grades 5 and up.

M.E.A. McNeil, **The Magic Storysinger: From the Finnish Epic Tale Kalevala**. Owings Mills, Md.: Stemmer House, 1993. Grades 3 and up.

Aaron Shepard, **The Princess Mouse: A Tale of Finland**. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2003. Retelling of a Finnish Folktale. Grades 3 and up.

Clara Stroebe, ed., **The Magic Hat and other Danish Fairy Tales**. Mineola, N.Y.: Dover

Publications, 1999. Ages 9-12.

_____, **The Maiden of Northland: A Hero Tale of Finland.** New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1996.

Retelling of a portion of the Kalevala, the Finnish national epic. Grades 5-7.

FICTION

For Students

William Durbin, **The Journal of Otto Peltonen.** Scholastic, 2000. The story of a boy who migrates with this family from Finland to Minnesota. 5th grade and up.

Kim Howard, **In Wintertime.** New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1994.
A girl listens to her grandmother's stories of growing up in Norway. Grades 2-4.

NON-FICTION

For Students

Sharon Franklin, **Scandinavia.** Austin, Tex.: Raintree Steck-Vaughn, 2000.

Includes extensive cultural information on the peoples of Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Lapland, as well as craft projects representative of each culture. Grades 5 and up.

Dan Garrett, **Scandinavia.** Austin, Tex.: Steck-Vaughn, 1991. From the World in View series. Grades 5-8.

Andrea Hopkins, **Viking Families and Farms.** New York: PowerKids Press, 2002.
Description of Norse families and communities. Grade 5.

Zhong Meichun, **Finland.** Gareth Stevens Publishing, 2001.

Overview of Finnish geography, politics, and culture. 4th grade and up.

Robert I. Vexler, ed., **Scandinavia: Denmark, Norway, Sweden: A Chronology and Fact Book, 1319-1974.** Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.: Oceana Publications, 1977.

Includes primary sources. Grades 5 and up.

On the Cover: 1539 Map of Scandinavia by Olaus Magnus, Bell Library: Maps & Mapmakers
www.bell.lib.umn.edu/map/OLAUS/MAP/geo.html

Key Word Vocabulary

culture - the art, music, beliefs and values, stories, celebrations and rituals shared in common by a group of people

geographic feature - the physical features that are used to describe the earth, such as island,

peninsula, continent

Upcoming Performance at the Library of Congress:

November 12, 2003 at 10 a.m.

Coolidge Auditorium, Jefferson Building
Yupik – The Original People

Chuna McIntyre tells the story of the Yupik people through music and performance.

For more information call: (202) 707-1071

December 10, 2003 at 10 a.m.

Coolidge Auditorium, Jefferson Building
Songs of the Rom

The history and culture of the Rom or Gypsy peoples is told through music.

For more information call: (202) 707-3303

January 26-30, 2004 at 10 a.m.

Coolidge Auditorium, Jefferson Building
Zora

Learn more about Zora Neale Hurston in a theatrical performance created by The American Place Theater.

For more information call: (202) 707-1071

February 2004 at 10 a.m.

Coolidge Auditorium, Jefferson Building
40 Acres

An original production created by Medusa Speaks! and Library LIVE that tells the story of African Americans in the Emancipation-era South.

For more information call: (202) 707-3303

March 4, 2004 at 10 a.m.

Coolidge Auditorium, Jefferson Building
Celtic Roots

Learn about Irish immigration to America through songs, stories and dance.

For more information call: (202) 707-1071

Additional program information available online at: www.loc.gov/kidslc

Nordic Region - the northwestern European countries of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Finland, and the Faroe Islands

Norse - ancient Scandinavian; Norwegian

political boundary - city, county, state, country are examples of boundaries determined by political decisions

region - a geographic area defined by its common features such as history, culture, climate or landscape

saga - a literary work often based on oral history that recounts the deeds of a legendary or historical hero; the Finnish Kalevala is an example of a saga; can also be called an epic

Vikings - the Scandinavian or Norse raiders of the 8th through 10th centuries; originating in Denmark, Sweden and Norway, they invaded and built settlements throughout northern Europe and in North America

(Definitions from Merriam-Webster on-line)

Search for additional materials at the library under the following subject headings:

Danish	Nordic Countries
Denmark	Norway
Faroe Islands	Norwegian
Faroese	Norsemen
Finland	Scandinavia
Finnish	Scandinavian
Folk Dance	Sweden
Folk Music	Swedish
Folk Literature	Vikings
Folk Tales	

Student Activities

1. Make a list of the countries that make up Scandinavia and identify them on the blank map that follows.
2. Ask the students what events or stories from their lives are worthy of an epic. Have the students work in groups to pick a topic, characters, and story line. Students can then write their epic in poem form and read it to their classmates or present in a theatrical form.
3. Have students research travel opportunities in Scandinavia and plan a trip. What countries and

cities would they like to visit and why. When would they travel (take weather and cultural calendars into consideration)? What would students pack for their trip? Make a list of some basic phrases they will need to know in order to get around, such as: please, thank you, how much does it cost, numbers 1-10, etc. What is the currency and denominations of the country(ies) they would like to visit?

4. Have students research Scandinavian immigration to the United States. Select one of the following famous Scandinavians to research and write a short biography:

Mildred Ella "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias

Robert Bly

Jacob Riis

Earl Warren

Charles Lindbergh

Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin

Sally Ride

Marilyn Monroe

William Rehnquist

RECORDINGS by Spælimenninir

Spælimenninir i Hoydolum, 1997.

Rekavidur/Hinumegin

Umafter

Floð & fjóra, 1996

Rekaviður/Hinvegin, 1991

Music of the Faroe Islands.