



Dear Educator,

Enclosed please find a Study Guide full of information, vocabulary, games and activities to help prepare your students for our production of **Schoolhouse Rock Live!** The show spans four different subject areas: multiplication, science, grammar, and history. We have taken care to include activities that are appropriate for all grade levels.

We hope that you find the Study Guide helpful in reinforcing the subject matter covered in **Schoolhouse Rock Live!** as well as drawing connections to curriculum in the classroom.

Troupe America would appreciate your comments and suggestions about **Schoolhouse Rock Live!** and the accompanying Study Guide. You will find a comment sheet immediately following this cover letter. Thank you for taking the time to fill it out.

Have a great time!



TheatreBAM Chicago
7102 North Damen Avenue, Unit G
Chicago, IL 60645-2469
www.schoolhouserocklive.com

SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE! COMMENT SHEET

NAME: (optional) _____

SCHOOL : _____

GRADE : _____

PLEASE CIRCLE THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER:

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>
1. I thought SRLive! was:	1	2	3	4
2. I thought the Study Guide was:	1	2	3	4
3. Teacher reaction to SRLive! was:	1	2	3	4
4. Student reaction to SRLive! was:	1	2	3	4
5. The choice of songs was:	1	2	3	4
6. The length of the performance was:	1	2	3	4
7. The performers in SRLive! were:	1	2	3	4
8. (Clarity) articulation and projection was:	1	2	3	4
9. Comments or suggestions on the performance?				
10. Comments or suggestions on the Study Guide?				

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7102 North Damen Avenue, Unit G
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Attn: School Tour

SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE!

WHAT IS IT...

TheatreBAM Chicago proudly presents the Chicagoland school tour of **Schoolhouse Rock Live!** the live adaptation of the Emmy Award-winning educational cartoon series "Schoolhouse Rock."

The original "Schoolhouse Rock" series was the brainchild of an advertising executive who noticed his son could remember all the words to popular songs on the radio, but could not remember the multiplication tables. He reasoned that if important educational information was coupled with exciting animation and catchy music, children would be able to learn and remember it.

From this simple idea, "Schoolhouse Rock" was born and quickly adopted by ABC-TV which broadcast the series on Saturday mornings from 1973 to 1985. Twenty years, 41 songs, and four Emmy Awards later, those of us who grew up with "Multiplication Rock", "America Rock", "Science Rock" and "Grammar Rock" can still sing the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution and know that "and", "but", and "or" all belong in Conjunction Junction.

The Chicago based TheatreBAM has taken "Schoolhouse Rock" in a new direction by developing a stage adaptation of the series --**Schoolhouse Rock Live!**-- about a nervous young teacher on the morning of his first day of teaching who finds help and encouragement from some crazy figments of his imagination.

WHO ARE WE...

Our story begins over twenty years ago when ABC children's programmer Michael Eisner green lighted the *Schoolhouse Rock* Emmy award-winning cartoon series that seeped its way into the consciousness of an entire generation.

Fast forward twenty years when five young theatre professionals, educators, and alumni of Northwestern and Theatre School at DePaul realized the series would make a great stage show. We formed the not-for-profit company **Theatre BAM** and, after two years of trying, acquired the rights to adapt "Schoolhouse Rock" for the stage. **Schoolhouse Rock Live!** opened on August 26, 1993 at Cafe Voltaire in Chicago, Illinois.

The show quickly became a cult favorite and attracted attention of reporters and critics. **SRL!** had to move to a larger theatre to keep up with growing audiences and took up residence at the Body Politic Theatre. After a two year sold-out run in Chicago, the company decided hook up with another young company, Move On Productions, and move **Schoolhouse Rock Live!** to The Atlantic Theater and The Lamb's Little Theatre in New York City, New York for the summer of 1995, running through the Spring of 1996. We gained national media attention from *Entertainment Tonight*, *Good Morning America*, *MTV News*, *NPR*, and *CNN*.

Then it was back to the Windy City for another run of over a year at the Victory Gardens Theater and The Theatre Building. Scott Ferguson conceived and directed the productions and Nina Lynn was the Executive Producer.

E-mail us at theatrebam@mac.com. Or on the web at www.schoolhouserocklive.com.

HOW TO BE A GOOD AUDIENCE

We suggest the following guidelines:

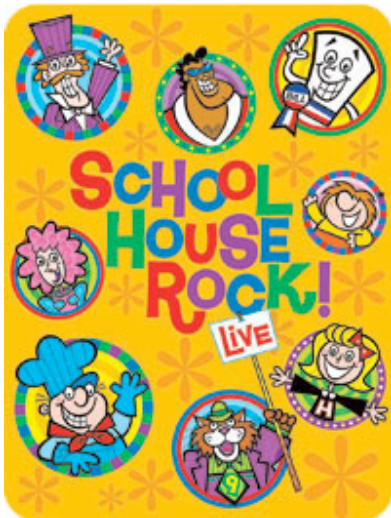
Take time before the performance to do some of the activities in this Study Guide. Familiarity with the events of the play enhances the experience, minimizing the potential for confusion and the resulting lack of attentiveness.

For many of your students this may be their first live theatre event. Discuss with them some of the differences between their roles as a television audience (passive) and a theatre audience (active).

Highlight their responsibilities:

1. **BEING QUIET:** if it's noisy the performers can't do their jobs. Actors can see and hear the audience just as much as the audience can see and hear the actors.
2. **SHOWING SELF-CONTROL:** if they are squirming in their seats, they disturb their neighbors.
3. **APPLAUDING:** their way of giving back the good feelings they received from the performers.

All of the guidelines coupled with your own enthusiasm and attentiveness should create a most positive attitude for experiencing a play. Above all, ENJOY!!!!



Multiplication Rock

ACTIVITIES

The following multiplication songs are in the production of **Schoolhouse Rock Live!**:

1. Three Is A Magic Number
2. Ready or Not, Here I Come (by Five's)

PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES (Multiplication Rock)

- As a class, make a list of things in which "Three" is the "Magic Number". Examples from the "Schoolhouse Rock" song are; a tripod (3 legs), a tricycle (3 wheels), a triangle (3 sides) etc.

- Have the students draw pictures of the things that they discovered above and make a "Three is a Magic Number Book."

- Play "Steal the Bacon by Five's".

Divide the class into two teams. The players on each team are assigned a multiple of five. (each team will have one player with the same multiple) Teams stand in a straight line on opposite sides of the room. place the "bacon" (a chalk eraser or other object) in the center of the room. The teacher will call out numbers at random. When a student hears her/his multiple of five, she/he will run to the "bacon" and try to steal it by grabbing it and running back to her/his team without being tagged by the person with the same number from the other team. If they get back to their team's goal, they win 5 points. The first team to 50 wins!

ADVANCED VARIATION: Instead of just calling out the numbers, the teacher asks a multiplication problem and the answer is the number that should try to "steal the bacon."

POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES (Multiplication Rock)

- Play "Hide and Seek by Five's", as seen in **Schoolhouse Rock Live!**

- Create your own number wheel showing the multiples of three or five. You can use cardboard or paper and a brad in the center so that it can turn.

VOCABULARY

Faith

Tripod

Past

Product

Hope

Tricycle

Present

Even number

Charity

Triangle

Future

Odd number

Science Rock

ACTIVITIES

The following science songs are in the production of **Schoolhouse Rock Live!**:

1. Interplanet Janet (The Solar System)
2. Do the Circulation

PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES (Science Rock)

•Divide the class into small groups. Each group is responsible for researching one planet in our solar system. Using your research, each group will design and create:

1. A planet flag that represents their planet.
2. A planet "National Anthem" (this could be new words put to a familiar tune like "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")
3. A planet "salute" (a physical movement that represents their particular planet)
4. A model of their planet (put them together to create a mobile or diorama of the entire solar system)

•Discussion Activity: Your heart pumps your blood at a regular rate called "beats." You can measure this rate by taking your pulse. How many times does your heart beat per minute when you are sitting quietly? How many times does your heart beat per minute after you've done 15 jumping jacks? Why are the two numbers different?

POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES (Science Rock)

•Color the picture of Interplanet Janet (included in the Study Guide) Cut it out and attach a handle to make a puppet. Travel with your puppet

•Research and discuss the circulatory system, the four parts of the heart, the difference between veins and arteries etc. On a large piece of paper that is taped to the wall, outline one of the student's entire body. Using your research, fill in the appropriate circulatory system.

VOCABULARY

Lungs	Heart	Arteries	Veins
Blood	Circulation	Ventricle	Atrium
Nutrition	Oxygen	Solar System	Planet
Galaxy	Hydrogen	Helium	Mercury
Venus	Earth	Mars	Jupiter
Saturn	Uranus	Neptune	Pluto
CO ₂ (carbon dioxide)			

Grammar Rock

ACTIVITIES

The following grammar songs are in the production of **Schoolhouse Rock Live!**:

1. Verb! That's What's Happenin'
2. A Noun is a Person, Place or Thing
3. Unpack your Adjectives
4. Conjunction Junction
6. Interjections!

PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES(Grammar Rock)

- Cut out pictures of people, places, and things from old magazines and make a "collage of nouns." Use adjectives, verbs, pronouns and interjections to write a short story about the pictures in the collage.
- In small groups, create your own short skits, songs, or dances that help to show what a noun, adjective, adverb, pronoun, or interjection does in a sentence.
- Make a "Picture Book of Adjectives." Draw pictures as many adjectives that you can. Create them so that the meaning of the word is apparent in the picture.
- Play "The Nouns Game." (using words on paper, pictures or real objects) Make a pile of "Persons", a pile of "Places", and a pile of "Things." Have each student pick one word from each of the piles and form a complete sentence that uses all three nouns.
- Play "The Verb Game" This is the same as the Noun Game except you should make a pile of "Verbs" as well. Now they have to make a complete sentence that uses their particular noun and verb.

POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES (Grammar Rock)

- Draw and color your favorite moment from **Schoolhouse Rock Live!** And write a short paragraph describing it with as many adjectives and interjections as possible. Then Send it to **TheatreBAM Chicago!**
- With your class, brainstorm together some separate lists of nouns, pronouns, adjectives, interjections, and verbs on the blackboard. In small groups, write a short story using 5 words from each list. Act out your story for the class.
- Complete the crossword puzzle that is in this study guide.

•Play "Schoolhouse Jeopardy!" On separate index cards, have the students write three questions about something they learned while the answers on the back of the cards and give them back to you. Divide into teams. You will act as a game show host and will ask members of the teams the questions they have written. Each correct answer is worth a point. If one team misses the point, the other team will have the opportunity to win two points for a correct answer.

•Play the "Describe It" game. This game requires great attention to detail.

1. You will show a random object to the class for 15 seconds, then put it away. Have them write a detailed description in sentence form—as if to describe it to someone who is blind, without saying the name of the actual object. Once the descriptions are completed, circle all the adjectives.

2. You will show a different object to different members of the class. Have them write another detailed description of the new object. They will then read their description to a classmate who did not see the object. Can she/he guess what it is?

•Life Without Pronouns. Tell the students a short story. Afterwards, ask them questions or have them retell the story *EXCEPT* they cannot use any pronouns. (It's not easy!)

VOCABULARY

Verb

Action

Being

Noun

Flora

Fauna

Chubby Checker

Beatles(*the group*)

Monkees(*the group*)

Adjective

Describe

Compare

Pronoun

Interjection

Infection

Injection

Excitement

Emotion

Exclamation Point

Comma

America Rock

ACTIVITIES

The following history songs are in the production of **Schoolhouse Rock Live!**:

1. I'm Just a Bill (How a bill becomes a law)
2. The Preamble (*For performances with 7th & 8th grades*)

PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES (America Rock)

•The Preamble is the first part of the United States Constitution. The school? With your students, write a Constitution for your classroom.

•Discussion Activity: What is a bill? How does a bill become a law? Why do you believe the first Congress of the United States of America create such an involved and lengthy process?

POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES(America Rock)

•Divide the class into a Congress and a Senate. (the teacher is the President) As a class, decide on a law that would be good for the classroom or school. See if you can pass the bill all the way up to becoming a law just the way our legislative branch of government does. Or will the "President" veto it?!

•Discussion Activity: Over the years, many changes and additions have been made to the U.S. Constitution. What are these changes called? Make a list of all of these changes, and describe why they were good amendments to the Constitution.

VOCABULARY

Preamble	Constitution	Principles
Liberty	Union	Establish
Ensure	Domestic	Tranquility
Provide	Defense	Welfare
Posterity	Ordain	A Bill
Capitol Hill	Committee	Law
Congress	Senate	Debate
Discuss	Veto	Vote



DRAW US A PICTURE AND WRITE US A LETTER!

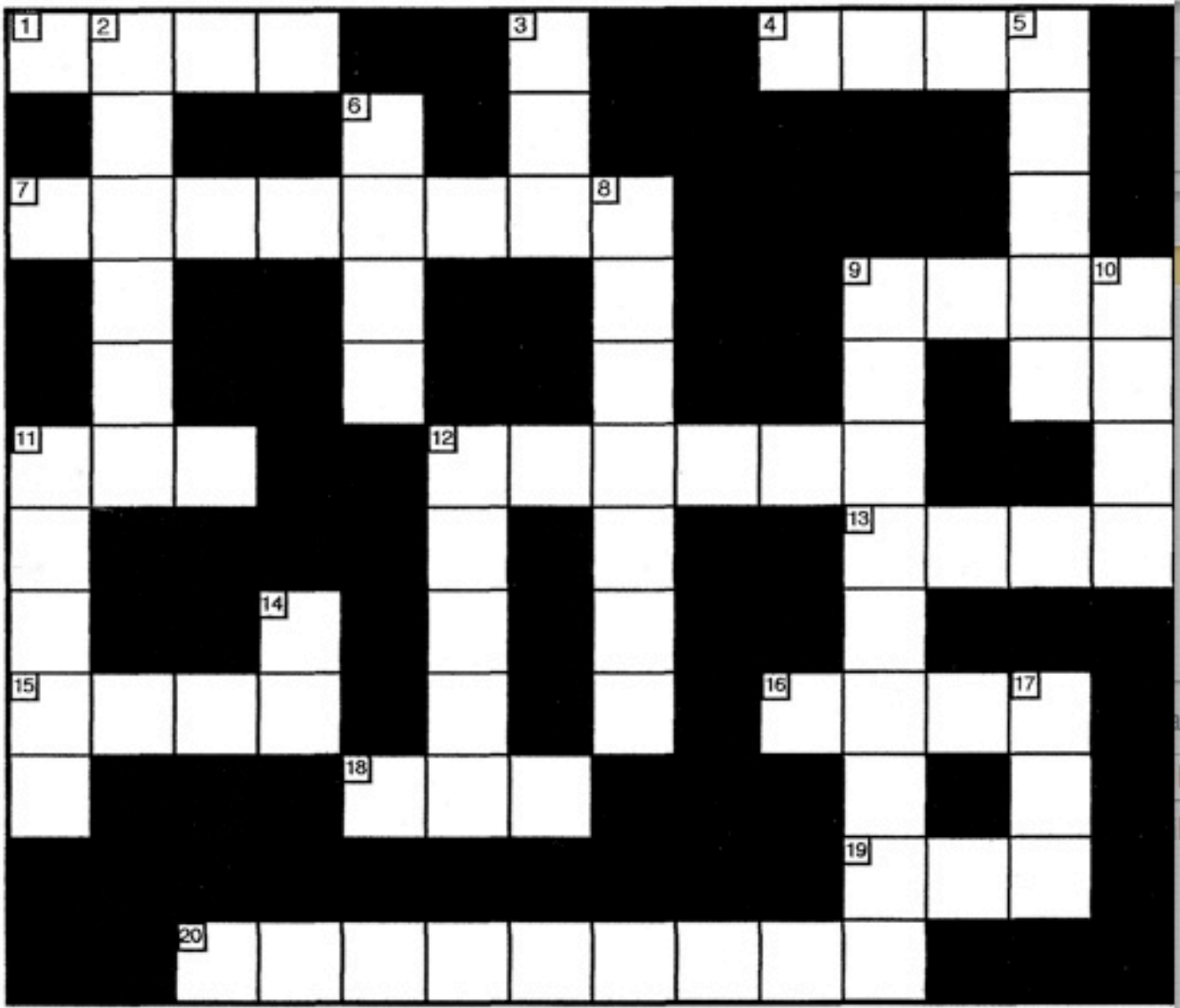
•Use crayons or markers to draw us a "scene" from *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* that you remember.

•Write a letter and tell us what your favorite part of the play was. We're sure that the performers would love to hear from you!

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SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE!

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. A person, place or thing.
4. Arithmetic
7. These gases: _____ & helium, make up the sun.
9. An action word.
11. A conjunction.
12. The planet with the rings.
13. Adjective meaning "small."
15. _____ & right atrium.
16. A _____ becomes a law.
18. The number of hearts you have.
19. The President can veto this.
20. A word that describes things.

DOWN

2. The blood carries this.
3. Pronoun for "Barbara Bush."
5. Pumps the blood.
6. We do this to elect a president.
8. Planet that is similar to Uranus.
(It's built on a "funny tilt.")
9. The heart has a left and right _____.
10. The _____ is filled with veins and organs.
11. The Pre _____ is the first part of the Constitution.
12. The product of 7 X 1.
14. A pronoun for "kangaroo."
17. Opposite of "high" *(an adjective)*

SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE!

CROSSWORD PUZZLE KEY



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