The Christmas Tree Ship Series: The Art of Storytelling

Background: Storytelling started long before there was a written language and books like we have today. Stories explain phenomena (things that happen) in nature, such as how this lake or this mountain got here, or why we have thunder and lightning. They pass on the culture and history of people, and they entertain. Storytelling is an art that comes in many different forms and anyone can participate. We are all storytellers!

Focus Question: How can songs help us learn about events in our history?

Student Objectives:
- Identify main characters, setting, plot and sequence.
- Draw scenes from the story in sequence.
- Explain the role of schooners played in our Great Lake history

Materials:
- One activity worksheet for each student (attached)
- Colored pencils, markers, construction paper, crayons
- Large sheet of drawing paper for each student
- Rulers may also be helpful

Vocabulary Words:
- Schooner
- Mast
- Bow
- Amidships

Teacher Preparation:
- Schedule your IVC session
- Make a copy of activity worksheet for each student.
- Gather drawing supplies.

Procedure:
- Have materials ready for students but do not distribute until instructed to do so.
- Connect with Milwaukee Public Museum.

Assessment:
- How can songs help us learn about events in history?
- What other songs do you know that also tells a story?
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Activity Worksheet

Today we are going to listen to a story in a song about Christmas trees that connects us to our Great Lakes history, from a storyteller, singer/songwriter. Then you are going to retell the same story. To help you retell the story later on, answer the following questions as you listen:

1. What is the name of the story?

2. Where and when did the story take place?

3. Who are the main characters?

4. Is there a hero? If so, who is it?

5. What happened in the story?

   First:

   Second:

   Third:

   Fourth: