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Let Freedom Ring

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Lady of Liberty:

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
 With conquering limbs astride from land to land;

Lady of Liberty 2:

Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
 A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
 Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
 Mother of Exiles.

Lady of Liberty 1:

From her beacon-hand
 Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command

Lady of Liberty 2:

The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
 "Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
 With silent lips.

Coming to America

Announcer 1: The first U.S. census taken in 1790, showed a population of just fewer than four million people, with about 10,000 new settlers arriving each year. Today there are over 300 million Americans.

Announcer 2: The U.S. government began keeping records of arriving passengers in 1820.

Announcer 3: At that time, the majority of immigrants were from Northern Europe but by the end of the 19th century, they were coming from Southern and Eastern Europe.

Announcer 1: Today, most new people arrive from Latin America and Asia.

Announcer 2: Their reasons for coming, however -- opportunity and freedom -- always remain the same.

Announcer 3: What is that story of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and where did it all begin?

Columbus Skit

Columbus: Round.

King Ferdinand: Flat

Columbus: Round

Ferdinand: Flat

Columbus: Round

Ferdinand: Flat

Columbus: Round

Ferdinand: Columbo, the world's she's flat

Columbus: The world she's a round

Ferdinand: She's flat

Columbus: Look King. She's round like a the apple a

Queen Isabella: She's flat like the pancake

Columbus: Pasta Fazoul

Columbus' son, Diego: She's round. She's Firm.

Columbus: She's round like my head

Queen Isabella: She's flat like your head

Columbus and Son: She's a rounda, We'll get to the East by going west

King and Queen: She's a flata. You'll fall off the edge and a serpent will eat you.

Columbus: Please just enough lira to set sail!!

Ferdinand: That's a pesos and the answer is No, A thousand times No!

King: (pushing the two out of his quarters) Out Out!

Columbus and Son: Hey!!!!

Columbus: Biscott Tortoni!!I'm a disgusted, Nobody believes the world she's a round

Son: She looks around a to me

Queen Isabella: Oh Boys, Come Here

Columbus and Son: Queen Isabella!!!

Isabella: If you can prova the worlds is round, Chris, I'll give you my jewels

Columbus: Raviola All the time prova. Proova Shmoova.

Son: She's round a!

Isabella: Don't let your spaghetti boil over, Diego. (Exits)

Son: You'll prove it one day, Dad.

Columbus: How do you know?

Son: (Holding an encyclopedia) Something I read somewhere. In fourteen hundred and ninety-two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue.

Ferdinand: OK, OK. A few pesos. What can it hurta??

Columbus: And some ships, King Ferdinand?

Ferdinand: Ay Yuy Yuy. Give an inch and they want a mile a. OK. I give you the Nina, she's so little. I give you the Santa Maria—she is fat and slow as a cow.

Son: Ahh! They are lemons. How about the Pinta? She is fast and light.

Ferdinand: You two are going to driva me loco! Take her Take her. (Covering face; almost crying) Just go! Go!! Don't come back without the spices.

Explorer Commentary: Early adventurers were motivated by religious beliefs, the desire for conquest, the need to establish trade routes, and hunger for gold.

Sometimes the country they were seeking was only known in legend or rumor but that didn't stop them!

Although they were searching for a specific land or route, they often times were surprised at what they discovered.

Sailor Skit

Captain: Are we ready to sail, First Mate

First Mate: Yes Captain, but I'm still not sure if this old ship will make such a voyage

Captain: It is all HIS Royal Highness has provided. It must make it!

First Mate: (sarcastically)It's all His Royal Highness has provided??? That's something all right. It's not every man who can persuade a King.

Second Mate: Pretty fine persuading, Sir. Seeing as how a gentleman such as you never sailed a ship before.

Captain: That's where you come in. And the crew

First and Second Mates: The crew. That bunch of hooligans!

Second Mate: Only one's ever been on a ship before is ol' Cooper and he's almost seventy.

Boatswain: I'm coming, too Captain. I'm a good sailor when I'm not in my bunk seasick

First Mate: Which is almost never

Captain: (pointing) There over there. That's a good strong bunch.

Second Mate: Those are the men with the measles. Or was it the chicken pox?

Boatswain: Well some of those other men look healthy.

First Mate: Those are the convicts. They were happy to join up

Boatswain: Well Never mind. They can't get into much trouble out at sea

Second Mate:If we ever get there

Captain: Let's check our provisions.

Captain: Hard tack?

Crew men: Check

Captain: Pickled Beef?

Crewmen: Check

Captain: Dried Beans?

Crewmen: Check

Captain: Water?

First Mate: Water barrels are not holding too tight, sir. But we're hugging close to shore for a spell. We'll find some new ones soon.

Second Mate: Weevils?

Captain: Weevils?

Second Mate: Just a joke, Sir.

Captain: Well it won't be when you're chewing on one in your oatmeal

Let's head out. All Aboard. New World, here we come.

Sea Cruise

Colonization Commentary

Historian: We all know that the first reasons for expeditions such those of Christopher Columbus were to find new routes to Asia.

Student: But something got in their way.

Historian: 3.7 million square miles to be exact.

Student: Yes and those new lands changed everything.

Historian: The Age of Colonization began.

Student: Settlers set sail from all of Europe to make claims of resources, land but most importantly, freedom.

Freedom

Song Actor 1

Freedom ain't a state like Maine or Virginia
Freedom ain't across some county line.

Song Actor 2

Freedom is a flame that burns within ya,
Freedom's in the state of mind.

All Class:Freedom, Freedom, Freedom, Freedom

Freedom is a flame that burns within ya
Freedom's in the state of mind.

Baa baa baa baa baa

Baa baa baa baa baa

Baa baa baa baa

Baa baa

Song Actor 3

Freedom ain't a boat that's leavin' without ya,
Freedom ain't a place ya float to find.

Song Actor 4

Freedom is the how ya think about ya
Freedom's in the state of mind

Freedom, Freedom Freedom is the how ya think about ya
Freedom's in the state of mind

You can't get to freedom by ridin' a train
The only way to freedom is right on through your brain
Wo wo wo wo-wo

Song Actor 5

Freedom is a notion sweepin' the nation
Freedom is the right of all mankind.

All Song Actors

Freedom is a body's 'magination
Freedom's in the state of mind.

All Class:Freedom, freedom, freedom, freedom

Freedom is a notion sweepin' the nation
Freedom is a body's 'magination,
Freedom is a full time occupation,
Freedom's in the state of mind.

Jamestown

Colonist to Captain: Do you see the get up he's wearing? We should attack before it's too late.

Colonist 2: He's right. His hair is missing down the back of his head. He'll probably give us the same style.

Colonist 3: Might be an improvement on you

Captain: Look, we're not going to cause trouble. We'll just go about setting up Jamestown as it directs in our Charter

Colonist 3: That's right. Right here (looking at book) It says, You must give great care not to offend the natives. A few of your company should trade with them for corn.

Colonist 1: Corn. I detest corn. I thought we'd grow my favorite crop. Sassafras!

Captain: No indeed. Corn is the gem of the New World. It grows better here than any other crop. We will need it to stay alive!

Colonist 2: O, but how it upsets my stomach! And I'm a gentleman of noble birth. I should not be required to dirty my hands in work that should be done by common laborers.

Colonist 1: That's right. We intend to spend our time searching for gold and silver. (swatting) These darned mosquitoes are everywhere

Captain: I do say you're right about that, but as of now, we are here to set up a colony, not search for riches.

Native American: HOW! (offer up gift)

Colonist 1: They seem friendly enough; they are giving us gifts;

Colonist 2: Do we have something to give them? (Trades some item foreign to Indians)

Native American: (with fascination, speaking something meaning thank you)

Captain: (shaking head, aside to audience) I think these people may come to be quite advantageous to us...

More Colonies: All Thirteen

Governor: Hear ye. Hear ye. We, the British have now established an extraordinary list of colonies in America.

Magistrate: They all began out of our impressive experiences in Massachusetts and Virginia. These thirteen original British colonies are:

Alternating:

- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- Rhode Island
- New York
- Connecticut
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- Delaware
- Maryland
- Virginia
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Georgia

The French Indian War and Taxes

Town Crier 1: British soldiers are fighting against French soldiers. The Indians have joined in the battle. They don't want the British to take over their land.

Town Crier 2: It's 1759. War has ended. British Major General James Wolfe captured Quebec.

Town Crier 1: Peace treaty of 1763 signed. The Brits get most of French land in North America.

Town Crier 2: War's over but , the Brits are taxing us. Want us to pay for their war!

Town Crier 1: Unfair!! Taxation without representation.

Town Crier: Meeting tonight at the town hall. Don't pay these taxes. Take a stand

The Boston Tea Party

Boston Citizen: Forget it!! We will get our tea somewhere else

Citizen 2: Forgive me governor, but I have a connection in Holland.

Patriot: Good. We'll take it. They cannot force us to buy their tea when we can buy it cheaper without their tax.

Governor of Massachusetts: The Tea Act allows the British East India Company to sell tea directly to you, the colonists. They don't need the colonial wholesale merchants

Boston Citizen: We will not unload all that tea from their ships. It's an outrage!!

Governor of Massachusetts: I demand that the tea be unloaded. Furthermore, you must all pay the taxes and duty on tea.

All: We will not pay.

Governor: Don't think you've heard the last of this.

Citizen 2: This is an outrage, unjustly forced upon the colonies to make those snobs in parliament some profit, I do say!

Patriot: We are not slaves sir, and I will not stand to be unrepresented and unfairly taxed for something I do not desire.

Narrator: On the evening of December 16, 1773, a group of men calling themselves the "Sons of Liberty" went to the Boston Harbor. The men were dressed as Mohawk Indians. They boarded three British ships, the Beaver, the Eleanor and the Dartmouth, and dumped forty-five tons of tea into the Boston Harbor.

Tea for Two---

Independence Road

In the early 1760s, when Parliament began to tighten its control over Britain's North American colonies, most colonists could not imagine separating from Great Britain. As English policies and taxes became increasingly burdensome, however, many colonists began to believe that independence from Great Britain was preferable to remaining colonies.

The Declaration of Independence

John Adams 1: I have come to the conclusion that one useless man is called a disgrace, that two are called a law firm and that three or more become a Congress.

2- For ten years King George and his Parliament have gulled, cullied and didled these Colonies with their illegal taxes, Stamp Acts, Townsend Acts, Sugar Acts, Tea Acts and

1-When we dared stand up like men they stopped our trade, seized our ships, blockaded our ports, burned our towns and spilled our blood—

2-And still this Congress won't grant any of my proposals on Independence even so much as the courtesy of open debate.

Both: What are we waiting for??

Thompson: A Declaration by the Representatives of the United States of America in the General Congress assembled.

John: (Rushing in) What! How far have they got?

Thompson: "To render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power,"

John: Well, there's nothing to fear. It's a masterpiece. I'm to be congratulated.

Franklin: You??

John: For making him write it!

Aide: Ah yes, Of Course

Adams It's a masterpiece, I say!

Aide: They will cheer every word, every letter

Jefferson: I wish I felt that way

Franklin: I see immortality for those of us On our Declaration Committee. Imagine! A farmer, a lawyer, and a sage. (Aside)A bit gouty in the leg

Aide: You know it's quite bizarre. To think that here you are somewhat like a mother chicken with its egg

John: Egg, What Egg??

Franklin: America, the birth of a new nation

Jefferson: If only we could be sure what kind of bird it's going to be

Thompson, Secretary: You've got a point. What sort of bird should be the symbol of our new America?

John: The eagle

Jefferson: The dove

Franklin: The turkey

John: The eagle

Jefferson: The dove

John: The Eagle

Jefferson: OK, The Eagle

Franklin: The turkey

Thompson: The eagle is a majestic bird

Franklin: The eagle is a scavenger, a thief, a coward and the symbol of more than ten centuries of European mischief

Aide: And the turkey?

Franklin: A truly noble bird, a native of America, a source of sustenance to our settlers, and an incredibly brave fellow who would not flinch from attacking an entire regiment of Englishmen singlehandedly. Therefore the national bird of America is going to be

John: The Eagle!!

All: (Shrugging) The Eagle

The Egg ---

All:
We're waiting for the chirp, chirp, chirp
Of an eaglet being born
We're waiting for the chirp, chirp, chirp
On this humid Monday morning in this
Congressional incubator

Franklin and all:
God knows the temperature's hot enough
To hatch a stone, let alone an egg

All:
We're waiting for the scratch, scratch, scratch

**Of that tiny little fellow
Waiting for the egg to hatch
On this humid Monday morning in this
Congressional incubator
Adams and Co.:**
God knows the temperature's hot enough
To hatch a stone

Jefferson:
But will it hatch an egg?
Adams and Co.:
The eagle's going to crack the shell
Jefferson: Of the egg that England laid
All:
**Yes, so we can tell, tell, tell
On this humid Monday morning in this
Congressional incubator**

Franklin and Co.:
And as just as Tom here has written
Though the egg may belong to Great Britain,

Jefferson: The eagle inside belongs to us!
All:
**And as just as Tom here has written
We say the heck with Great Britain!
The eagle inside belongs to us!**

The Women

Abigail 1: Dearest John, I long to hear that you have declared an independency—and by the way in the new code of laws, I desire you would remember the ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors.

Abigail 2: Do not put such unlimited power in to the hands of the husbands....If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies we are determined to start a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation. With love, Abigail

The Signing

Dickinson: I am sorry, but I cannot in good conscience sign such a document. I will never stop hoping for our eventual reconciliation with England. I will join the Army and fight in America's defense, though I believe it to be hopeless. Good bye Gentlemen. (Exits)

Hancock: Gentlemen, Are there any objections to the declaration being approved as it now stands?

John Adams: I have one, Mr. Hancock

Hancock: You, Mr. Adams?

Yes, Mr. Jefferson, it so happens the word is unalienable, not inalienable.

Jefferson: I'm sorry Mr. Adams, inalienable is correct.

John: I happen to be a Harvard graduate

Jefferson: And I attended William and Mary

Hancock: (pounding the gavel) Gentlemen, please! Mr. Jefferson, will you yield to Mr. Adam's request?

Jefferson: No sir. I will not.

John: Oh Very Well. I'll withdraw it.

Franklin: Good for you, John!

John: (aside) I'll speak to the printer about it later

Hancock: Very well gentlemen

We are about to brave the storm in a skiff made of paper, and how it will end, God only knows. (He signs)

Franklin: That's a pretty large signature, Johnny.

Hancock: So Fat George in London can read it without his glasses

(Laughter)

Come on Gentlemen, step right up, don't miss your chance to commit treason!

Franklin: Hancock's right. This paper is our passport to the gallows. But there's no backing out now. If we don't hang together, we shall most assuredly hang separately.

After the Revolution: On the Freedom Train

Narrator: Unfortunately, the Declaration of Independence did not really apply to everyone. By the mid-19th century the differences between North and South had become severe, especially in the issue of slavery.

By the 1860s, the Southern states decided to secede from the Union and civil war broke out, costing hundreds of thousands of lives.

Anderson: I don't know why it matters.

Gabriel: What matters?

Anderson: Whether I go fishing with you or not. Daddy says today's the last time

Gabriel: I know. My mama says your family wants to join with the North and we ain't no longer friends.

Anderson: Why? How can that be?

Gabriel: Cause we're joining with the South. They say a war is coming and you have to choose sides.

Anderson: You mean to tell me if I lived down the road yonder, I'd be joining the South and cause I live here and now, I'm part of the North.

Gabriel: As near as I can tell, that's what's going on

Anderson: Ain't that the darndest thing!

Gabriel: Let's not tell anyone that we still like the same fishing hole and we're friends forever.

Anderson: Deal

Gabriel: Deal

Why Am I Me?

Closing announcer: With the Emancipation Proclamation and the victory of the North, a single country was once again unified.

Abraham Lincoln 1: "That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State,

2--shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free; and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons,

1--and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

Back in the USA

Uncle Sam: To this day, despite all the backgrounds and political ideals held in the United States, our country has remained unified in the quest of our founding fathers—for life liberty and the pursuit of happiness—the rights of all.

Lady Liberty 3:

*"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

**Give My Regards to Broadway
Let Freedom Ring**