

# *Vocabulary for Bob Ford's Folklore & Fun!*

## **Theatre Terms**

- Actor** -- a man who performs in plays or movies.  
**Actress** -- a woman who performs in plays or movies.  
**Audience** -- the people who come to see an artistic event (music, plays, dances) at a theater.  
**Costumes** -- the clothes worn by an actor or actress on stage.  
**Director** -- the person who controls the artistic elements of a play including the actors, technicians, designers, etc.  
**House** -- the part of the theater where the audience is seated.  
**Play** -- the written script of a performance; the performance of the script by actors on a stage.  
**Props** -- short for properties. Properties are items carried on stage by an actor or actress.  
**Scenery** -- painted screens, backdrops or hangings used to represent different locations for a play. Scenery is too large for an actor to move easily.  
**Set** -- an arrangement of scenery on a stage for a play.  
**Stage** -- a platform or area where plays, dances or music are performed.  
**Stage Left** -- a stage direction -- the actor's left as he faces the audience.  
**Stage Right** -- a stage direction -- the actor's right as he faces the audience.  
**Backstage** -- a stage direction -- behind the stage, out of sight of the audience.  
**Offstage** -- a stage direction -- off the stage acting area out of sight of the audience. Could include Backstage.  
**Playwright** -- the person who writes the words for the script of a play.  
**theater** -- a building where plays, musicals, orchestral concerts, or films are presented.

## **Historic terms**

- History** -- the past; the study of the recorded past.  
**Oral History** -- Mouth history -- stories and songs told by one person to another.  
**Written history** -- stories of the past written down in books.  
**Buck skin** -- the skin of a male deer which is called a buck.  
**Discoverer** -- to be the first to find, see or know about something.  
**Explorer** -- a person who travels to areas previously unknown in order to learn about them.  
**Fort** -- a protective structure made of logs. Used by settlers to protect them from Indian attacks.  
**Frontier** -- the border between two countries; the line between the settled land and the unsettled land; the place where two cultures meet.  
**Frontiersman** -- man who explores the unknown lands; an explorer.  
**Frock coat** -- worn by early frontiersmen as a hunting coat. Sometimes called a Hunter's Frock or Hunter's shirt.  
**Leggings (leggin's)** -- clothing originally worn over the legs by the Indians to protect them from briars and stickers in the woods. Later learned and worn by the early male settlers.  
**Knee Britches** -- pants worn by the men that reached only to the knee. Short pants.  
**Log Cabins** -- homes made out of the trunks of trees. First used by the settlers and later used by the Indians.  
**Long Houses** -- homes built by the Eastern Indian tribes. Made of wood and bark, a long house was like an apartment house. Many families lived in them together.  
**Pioneer** -- a person who goes first, to prepare the way for others.  
**Pouches** -- worn by settlers on their belts or over their shoulders to carry their belongings.  
**Settler** -- a person who moves to live in a new country or colony.  
**Stockings** -- worn by the men with their knee britches to cover their lower legs. Later they covered these with leggings to keep their stockings from being ripped apart as they walked through the woods.  
**Trade** -- business between settlers and Native Americans that often used barter instead of money. Settlers traded beads, tinware, knives, tomahawks, etc., for furs.  
**Treaty** -- an agreement, usually written down on paper (the Indians sometimes used long belts of wampum) between two countries.  
**Wigwam** -- an individual Indian house made of long sticks and covered with bark or canvas. Used by the Eastern Woodland Indian tribes.  
**Wampum** -- beads made from shells, often worked into ornaments, sometimes used as money.

## **Additional definitions from National Standards**

- Absolute Location** -- Location of a point on the Earth's surface which can be expressed by a grid in reference to latitude and longitude
- Barter**-- The trade of goods & services for other goods & services without the use of money.
- Cardinal directions**-- The four main points of the compass (north, south, east or west.)
- Country** -- A unit of political space; the entire land area of a nation.
- Culture** -- Learned behavior of a group of people which includes their belief systems and languages, their social relationships, and their material goods such as food, clothing, buildings, tools and machines.
- Discrimination** -- Unfair treatment of a person or group based on a variety of prejudices.
- Latitude** -- The horizontal lines on a map or globe. Measured in degrees of meridian north or south. 0 degrees and largest line is the equator. (*think "flat - titude"*)
- Longitude** -- The vertical lines (up and down) on a map or globe. 0 degree, called the Prime Meridian, runs through Greenwich, England. The chronometer (later the pocket watch) was developed so sea captains could calculate their location on the charts (maps). (*think "long lines"*).
- Monarchy** -- A system of government headed by a monarch, such as a king, queen, shah, or sultan, whose position is usually inherited.
- Nation** -- A group of people bound together by a strong sense of shared values and cultural characteristics, including language, religion, and common history.
- Natural Resource** -- A productive resource supplied by nature.
- Natural Rights** -- A belief that individuals are naturally endowed with basic human rights that cannot be taken away or given up.
- Prejudice** -- An adverse opinion or judgment formed beforehand or without full knowledge or a complete examination of the facts; preconceived idea or preference.
- Primary Source** -- An account of an event by someone who was present at the event.
- Racism** -- The belief that members of one's own race are superior physically, mentally, culturally, and morally to members of other races.
- Region** -- An area with one or more common characteristics or features which give it a measure of homogeneity and make it different from surrounding areas.
- Territory** An area of land (the land and waters) under the jurisdiction of a state, nation, or sovereign.
- Want** -- A psychological or physical desire that can be fulfilled through the consumption of goods and services.