

## Exploring the Parks and Recreation Department & Planning a “Founders Day” Festival

### Overview

During a class trip to the public library, students will use resources at the public library to learn about the history of their town, as well as the services that the library and the local Parks and Recreation department provide to the community. In groups, students will create a “Founder’s Day Festival,” along with advertisements and a parade float based on their research. (This activity can also be conducted in the classroom using online or school library resources if desired.)

### Grades

3-5

### Materials

- Books, resources and/or internet access for researching the history of your town
  - Another option is to invite a local historian or librarian who can speak to students about the history/founding of the town
- Founders Day Planning Team (Part I), assignment sheet attached
- Extension Activities for Founders Day (Part II - optional)
  - Advertising Team
    - Instagram Template
    - Sample Festival Posters
  - Parade Float Design Team
  - Book Drop Design Team
  - Fashion Design Team (optional)
    - Historic dress examples
  - Art supplies such as crayons, colored pencils, art paper, poster board, scissors, etc.
  - Fair/Festival commercial sample: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYYr3O2ejCY>
- A staff member from the local Parks and Recreation Dept. (optional but recommended)

### Teacher Preparation

Before your trip to the library, contact a librarian to pull books about your town and its inception that students can use for their research. Books about local parks can also be provided so that students can conduct additional research to determine possible location sites for the festival.

Teachers or librarians are strongly encouraged to have a representative from your town or county’s Parks and Recreation Department join you at the library speak about the myriad of services they provide to the community.

Students will be asked to complete various assignments based on research about their town. Teachers can choose which and how many tasks students should complete. These activities can also be completed in class without going to the library. Teachers can guide students in online research and use the attached materials.

### Procedure

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### Warm Up – What is a Parks and Recreation Department and what do they do?

1. As a warm up, project the attached image of a local park. Ask students to look at the picture for a minute and ask them the following questions:
  - What is this place?
  - How can you tell?
  - What kinds of things do you do there?
  - Who in your community benefits from this?
  - Who manages and maintains parks like this?
2. Let students know that in many communities, the Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for maintaining our parks and playgrounds so that we can enjoy them. Ask students if they have ever heard of the Parks and Recreation (Rec) Department. Can they think of other services, events, and offerings of a Parks and Rec Department?
3. Play the brief 3 minute video about the Raleigh Parks and Recreation department, available [here](#). (While the video discusses Raleigh’s offerings in particular, many of the services the video discusses are universal.) Afterwards, ask students to note additional services Parks and Rec departments offer that they haven’t noted yet. As the class discusses, make sure to note that a Parks and Rec Department organizes various athletic programs for kids and adults, as well as provide coaching, fitness and health programs. Just as the library provides many different services such as hosting computer and photography classes or book talks, the Parks and Recreation Department brings the community together. Sometimes, they also host or co-host special community events. (For example, in April 2018 the Town of Chapel Hill is hosting the [Near & Far Festival](#), to celebrate global culture.)
4. Ideally, teachers will have arranged for a Parks and Recreation staff member to speak to students about what their department does and why it’s important to the community. Introduce this person at this point and allow them to speak briefly (no longer than 8 minutes) and then allow the students to ask questions. The teacher or Parks and Rec official may also want to show students the Parks and Rec website.

### Founder’s Day Festival Planning & Town Research

5. Tell students that they are going to imagine that they are helping the Parks and Rec Department collaborate with the public library to plan and organize a “Founder’s Day Festival!” Founders Day is a day that recognizes your city and when it was formed, and highlights all of the fun and important things you can do in your city. When library staff realized that community members didn’t seem to know their town’s history, they contacted the Parks and Rec Department to collaborate on hosting their first annual “Founders Day Festival.”
6. Tell students that they will be put into groups to serve on the Planning Team for the Founders Day Festival and provide each student with the attached Founders Day Planning Team handout. Explain to students that the first important part of planning this festival is researching their city/town’s history and founding date, after which they will think creatively about how to design an educational and fun festival celebrating the city/town. At this point, introduce students to the research materials available (or have a librarian provide an overview of the resources) and allow students to get started with their research.
7. Let students know how much time they have to complete their research, as well as the time allowed for festival planning. This activity can be done as a quick creative exercise at the library (i.e., 30-45 minutes),

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or scheduled over multiple days (to be finished back in the classroom) for a more in depth project. Teachers with very limited time can also have a librarian or local historian present information to the students about the history and founding of the town, rather than having students do independent research.

8. As students are working in their planning teams, teachers should circulate throughout the room to ensure that students are on task and to answer any questions. If the Parks and Rec staff person is available to stay, they too would ideally float among the groups of students to answer any questions and assist with ideas.
9. As an optional Part II of planning Founders Day, students can also be assigned (or allowed to choose between) an artistic design component. Attached extension options include:
  - Advertising Team
  - Parade Float Design Team
  - Book Drop Design Team
  - Clothing Design Team (optional)
    - Sample templates are attached if students need an example of how they can illustrate clothing designs.
10. Let students know when and how they will be presenting their work to the entire class. For example, upon completion, each group might display a visual summary of their plan for Founders Day and/or their artistic component (if implementing Part II as well) and have one group member stand beside these items to provide a summary of the team’s Founders Day plan. The remainder of students can then do a “gallery walk” around the space and observe/learn about each team’s ideas. (The students who stay to summarize their group’s plans can be swapped in and out to give all students a chance to both view everyone’s work as well as talk about their own.)

Alternatively, teachers can simply have each team present their ideas to the rest of the class, after which the class claps and provides feedback (i.e., what they liked, what questions they have, etc.)

11. It is recommended that all students fill out an observation sheet as they learn about each team’s Founders Day plans (whether conducting a gallery walk or watching group presentations). Students can create the following observation chart on notebook paper:

Group	What did they share about the history/founding of our town?	Their Ideas for Founders Day	What I Liked/Questions I Have

12. After all groups have presented, debrief by discussing the following questions:
  - What did you learn about the history and/or founding of this town? What did you learn about what life was like when your town was founded?
  - How would your life be different if you lived during the time when your town was founded?
  - What did you learn about the Parks and Recreation Department today? How does our community benefit from organizations that we have today like our local library and Parks and Rec Department?

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- **Optional Closing Creative Writing Activity:** Time Traveler – If the town’s founders came here today, what would they think? Write a two-minute speech about why they founded the town and what they think about present day here. Do they miss something from their time? Or, what intrigues and impresses them about modern life?

## Sample Warm Up Image



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## Founders Day Planning Team

Founders Day is day that recognizes your city, when it was formed and its history, and highlights all of the fun and important things you can do in your city. Festivals and special events provide unique experiences for residents and visitors to your town. These celebrations bring together families, friends and neighbors to celebrate and connect with your community. Your task is to plan a Founders Day celebration for the town.



### Committee Members:

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### About the History and Founding of Your City/Town:

1. When & how was your town founded? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What was life like then?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What events happened in the city throughout history that people should know about?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Plan a fun event that will celebrate the history and founding of your city/town! When planning your event, your group can consider ideas such as:**

- History: How will you educate and excite attendees regarding your city's founding and history in fun and creative ways?
- Entertainment: Will there be performances (theatre, dance, music, etc.?) Games? Activities?
- Food: What types of food will you serve?
- Attractions: what events, games or rides will you include at the festival?

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Founders Day Advertisement Samples

# FOUNDERS' DAY

## September 9

3pm-9pm Leland Municipal Complex

**LIVE MUSIC** Johnny White & The Elite Band Justin Cody Fox Across the Bridge

Fireworks Carnival Food Trucks  
Arts/Crafts & Business/Non-profit Vendors

**Veteran Salute** during Opening Ceremonies  
(Please arrive no later than 2:45 p.m. If unable to ride okette please contact us for drop-off information.)

NO PARKING On-Site Park and Ride Shuttles available at NBHS  
Bring Canned/Non-Perishable Food for Food Drive Benefitting Local Food Bank  
Bring a chair/blanket. Coolers allowed.

Presented by **Leland Parks & Recreation**

For more info contact (910) 408-3092 or recreation@townofleland.com

foundersdayfestival.com

CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS

# FOUNDERS DAY FESTIVAL

MERCER ST.

Moby

DRIPPING SPRINGS JUST WEST OF WEIRD

## April 22-24, 2016

Friday, April 22	Saturday, April 23	Sunday, April 24
<p>4:00 p Carnival 6:30 p Grand Parade, Destination Drippin', Host Brad Thomas Live Music &amp; Street Dance 7:30 p People's Choice, Main Stage</p>	<p>10:30 a Carnival • Arts/Crafts • Cook off Competitions</p> <p><b>HOME DEPOT STAGE</b> 11:00a Live Entertainment 12:00p DSHS Battle of the Bands Winner 1:00p Thought Cloud 2:15p Doug Marsh and the Shimstocks 4:00p The Jim Halfpenny Band 6:15p Jimmy and the Mustangs</p> <p><b>DS RENTAL STAGE</b> 11:00a Decibel Agency 12:00p Bill Paige &amp; Friends 1:00p Dripping Strings 2:00p Clickety Cloggers 3:00p Central Texas Youth Ballet 4:00p Head to Toe Dance</p> <p><b>Live Music &amp; Street Dance</b> 8:15p Carport Casanovas 10p Bobby Pounds Band</p>	<p>11 a Carnival • Arts/Crafts • Food Music • Beer (after 12 noon)</p> <p><b>HOME DEPOT STAGE</b> 9a Church Service Noon Hired Guns 2:30p Cook Off Awards Chicken Clucking</p> <p><b>DS RENTAL STAGE</b> 12:30p Tommy Mojica 1:30p Bill Paige &amp; Friends</p>

**Park and Shuttle:** Park at the High School. Rotary Club will provide shuttle to and from festival. \$5 donation.

**Parking:** VFW Triangle, Fee Varies

**Thank You Sponsors**

**Platinum**  
CALITERRA BY JOHN DEERE, LockTite STORAGE, SOUTH-POINT HYUNDAI, HEADWATERS DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX, HOGSON VETERANS

**Gold**  
PIONEER SERVICE, MEDICAL TOWERS, GORDON INSCORE HOMES, CMA Engineering, Inc., MCADEN

**Silver**  
ARROWHEAD RANCH, M&H, STRATFORDLAND, HEB, Family Adair Dentistry, Jim and Jane Baumeol, Strawberry Bank, Capital Farm Credit, DS Education Foundation, Hogan Investment Management, Pecan Springs Ranch, Prosperity Bank, Security State Bank and Trust, Supreme Hardwood Floors

**Bronze**  
Special Agent Group, Smiles of Dripping Springs Ranchworks, Lone Star Capital Bank, Carlson, Brigrance, & Doering, Inc., 5 Star ER, Carter Floors and More, Crystal Springs Custom Pool

**In Kind**  
City of Dripping Springs - DSSD, DS Rental Center - The Home Depot, Premier Events - Wells Fargo Bank

Founders Day Festival is administered by a Commission of Volunteers & the City of Dripping Springs. Board Members: Chair, Evan Saylor; Vice Chair, Jake Adams, AJ Bergeron, Trent Edwards, Shawn Goss, Stephanie Hollibaert, Michael Menninger, Chris Nichols, Paul Sanchez, Brad Thomas, and Ginger Taught and Debra Lee City of DS

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## Founders Day Parade Float Design Team

Founders Day is day that recognizes your city, when it was formed and its history, and highlights all of the fun and important things you can do in your city. Festivals and special events provide unique experiences for residents and visitors to your town. These celebrations bring together families, friends and neighbors to celebrate and connect with your community.

A parade is scheduled to kick off Founders Day. Your task is to create a float for the parade teaches about the history and founding of your city and highlights what makes it so special. Use the library’s resources to research the city, its founding and history and sketch out your float idea.



**Float Designers:**

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**Brainstorm and sketch fun ideas for your float here:**

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## Founders Day Book Drop Design Team

Founders Day is day that recognizes your city, when it was formed and its history, and highlights all of the fun and important things you can do in your city. Festivals and special events provide unique experiences for residents and visitors to your town. These celebrations bring together families, friends and neighbors to celebrate and connect with your community. Use the library's resources to research information about your town.

As part of the Founders Day celebration, the local library has agreed to host a book drive for schools in need. There will be two sites at the festival where people can drop books off. Your job is to design both book drops. Your book drop should relate to your town in some way. For example, it might look like a famous landmark in your town or represent an event in your town's history or an important person in your town. Be creative!

### Book Drop Designers:

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**Brainstorm and sketch fun ideas for your float here:**

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## Fashion Design Team

As part of the Founders Day festival, the Planning Committee has decided to hire actors to dress up in clothing similar to what people wore when your town was founded. Use the library’s resources to research clothing inspiration to design your own outfits that can be worn in the festival.

What was fashion like then?

**Designer’s Names:**

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**Brainstorm and sketch ideas for costumes here:**

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## Historic Dress Examples

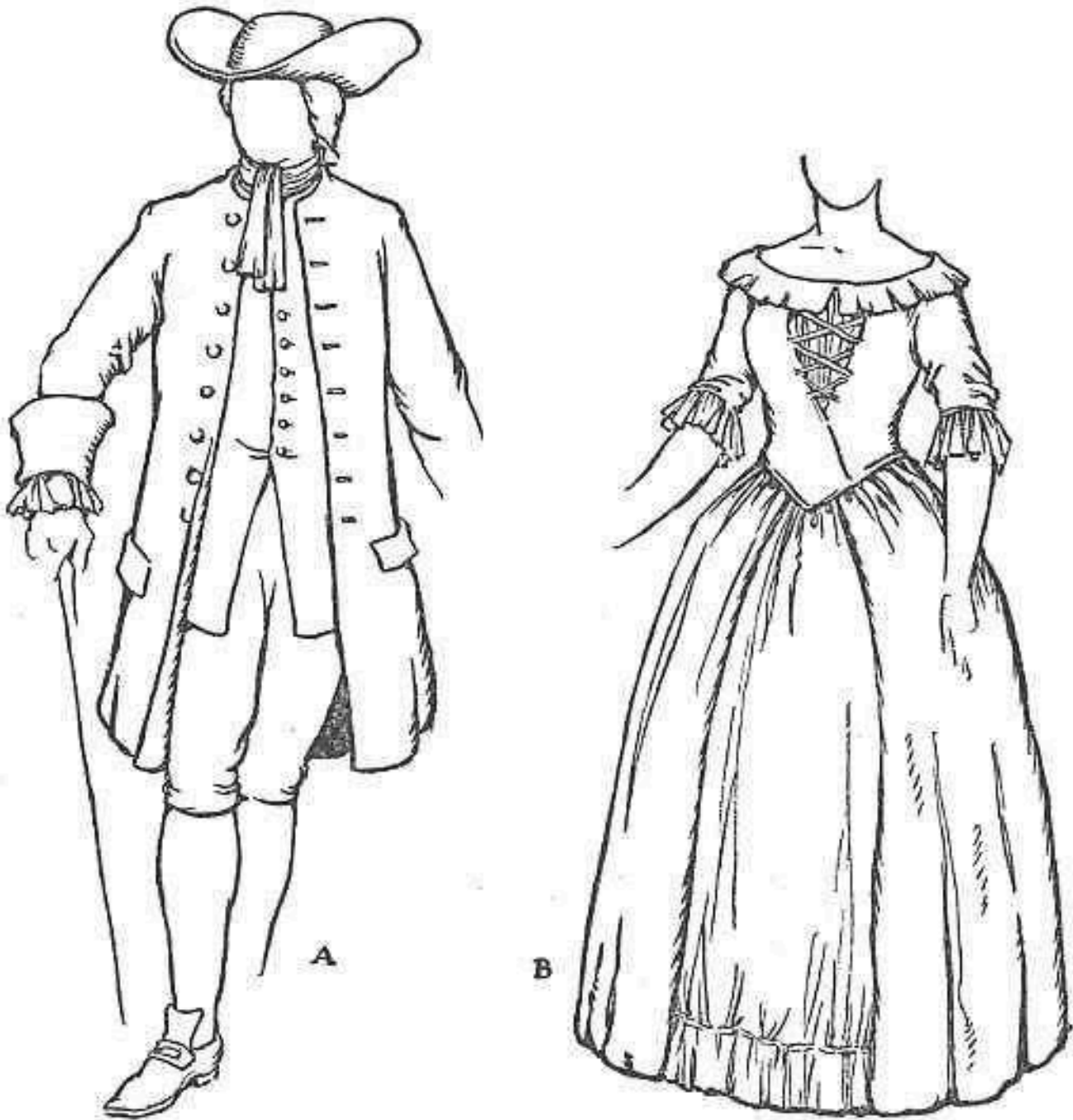
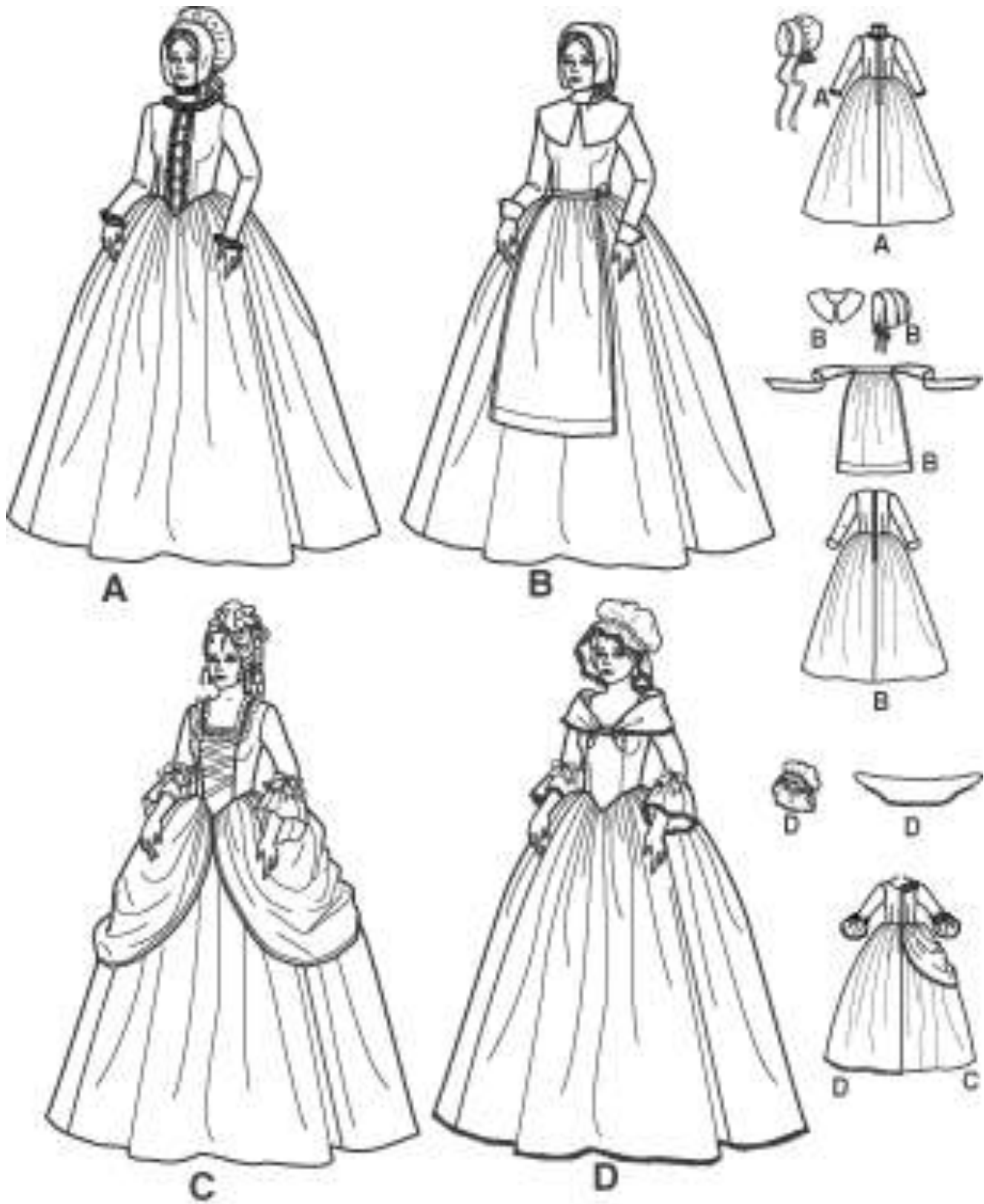


FIGURE 68

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