

## WOW! What Wonderful Water!

Play for Great Swamp NWR Fall Festival, September, 2017

Characters:

Dinosaur Water Drop - Kathy

Indian Water Drop - Bonnie Langdon

Colonial Water Drop – Ginnie Scott

Props: Raindrops, Rainbow

**Dinosaur/Glacier Drop:** Hi, I am Dino Water Drop. WOW! (Hold up sign) Water is wonderful. Great Swamp wouldn't be a "swamp" without water. My friends (motioning to the other Drops) and I have visited here many times over many years and we want to tell you the story about Great Swamp. Every time I hold up this sign will you say WOW with me? Let's practice...WOW. WOW.

(Looking thoughtful) The first time I remember being here was when a dinosaur..a *Hadrosaurus*, if I remember correctly, spit me out, right about over there. I landed on a cinnamon fern, dribbled down to the ground and disappeared. After that, things got very cold around here. It snowed a lot and a thick glacier covered the area. (Sign up: WOW) As the climate changed and the glacier melted, I got

squeezed out the bottom into a big lake and then into the Passaic River and down to the ocean. But, don't worry, I came back. (Sign up: WOW)

**Indian Drop:** Hi, I'm Leni, the Indian Water Drop. The Leni Lenape Indians made their camps on the banks of the Passaic River. The river was beautiful and clear. It was full of fish, fresh water mussels and eels. The trees nearby had lots of nuts, and deer and bear came out of the swamp to drink from the river. This was the perfect place for an Indian summer camp. I remember falling as a raindrop onto the field right back there (gesture) and flowing into the river, alongside the canoes. The Indians sang wonderful songs and I loved being part of the river! (Sign up: WOW) Soon white settlers came to the valley. They cut down trees to build houses and barns. They loved when the gentle spring rains watered their fields! (Sign up: WOW)

**Colonial Drop:** Greetings! I'm Water Drop Mills. In 1776, the American colonies went to war with the King of England. The King sent armed soldiers to New York City to try to capture the soldiers in New Jersey. But General Washington

was smart. He knew Great Swamp was wet and muddy, so he camped behind the swamp so the King's men could not attack him. George Washington and his troops won the war and we became the United States of America. Water drops helped win the war. (Sign up: WOW) More people moved here, and Mr. Bockoven built the beginning of this house. (Gesture) I remember getting scooped out of a well and being poured onto the potato patch that was back there. Other Drops came back as rain and ended up in the horse's water trough. That wasn't so much fun! (Sign up: WOW)

**Dinosaur/Glacier Drop:** Hey, remember me? After I left Great Swamp, I went in to the ocean and swirled downed to South America, into the Amazon forest and even over to the coast of Africa. But then, in 1960, I got sucked up in Hurricane Donna, and ended up over New Jersey. Things had changed a lot. There were many more buildings and highways, with cars and trucks. The Passaic River near the ocean was filled with trash and chemicals. I tried to see more as I was being swirled around and then I recognized Great Swamp. I slipped past other raindrops and landed not far from here. The next day, as the sun came out, a bunch of people

came stomping through the puddle where I was. They seemed happy and sad at the same time. I heard them say that there were plans to build a big jetport right here. These people wanted to save the water so the frogs and turtles and birds and trees would still have a home! They said lots of people in New Jersey got their drinking water out of the Passaic River, and Great Swamp helped clean the water. (Sign up: WOW)

**Indian Drop:** I never got to travel as far as my friend did, but I came back as part of a spring shower for a wonderful celebration May 29, 1964. People worked together to save this land as a National Wildlife Refuge for plants and animals and for people. They even got Congress to name part of it Wilderness so it would stay just as I remembered it when the Indians were here. (Sign up: WOW)

**Colonial Drop:** I love the people at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. They love water. (Sign up: WOW) They don't waste water. They help people learn that turtles and frogs and river otter need clean water. They create ponds and put out birdbaths for the birds. They teach people not to dump oil and other trash into streams that run into the river. So I thank them whenever can!

Did you know water drops and sun make  
Rainbows!! (Drop rainbow!) (Sign up: WOW)

### Dinosaur Drop:

If you want to help us keep water clean and love  
Great Swamp NWR, please stand and repeat  
after me:

I will not waste water.

I will turn off the water when I brush my teeth.

I will come to Great Swamp and bring my  
friends.

I will appreciate clean water.

WOW!

