

HISTORY OF THE WORLD IN 4 MINUTES

Aug 7 1990

ED (SETUP AT DESK)

It's a constant refrain of TV's critics that nothing educational can be presented within the time restrictions of a commercial program.

To answer these critics, the Tonight Show would like to present a brief, but information-packed, educational interlude.

(CENTER: PODIUM WITH A TOASTER ON IT, AND TWO ROUND WAFFLES IN TOASTER. A PLATE. JOHNNY ENTERS TO PODIUM.)

JOHNNY

The complete history of the world and two Eggo waffles, in four minutes.

(JOHNNY CLEARS THROAT, POPS THE TOASTER DOWN)

JOHNNY

(RAPIDLY)

Wet and dark and cold and smelly,
Prehistoric floating jelly.
Lightning flashes, water cloudy,
Jelly walking, saying "Howdy!"
Two amoebas whoopee-making,
Sex is born, and so is faking.
Soon there's grass and trees and roses,
Things with tails that ain't got noses.
Birdies eatin' worms and fishes,
Lizard chompin' on the Missus.
Noah's Moas, Noah's boas,
All from tiny protozoas.
Reptiles getting big and cocky,
Pterodactyl eats your doggie.
Geeses, meeses, weasels, camels,
Add some boobs...hey, you got mammals!
Monkey playing on savannah,
Great-great aunt of Daryl Hannah.
Double ice-age, double whammies,
Cavemen skinning bears for jammies.
Bows and arrows, quest for fire,
Neanderthal invents the tire.
Ploughs, cows, bigger brows,
All the stuff that brains allows.
Cro-Magnons' artistic itchin's,
Painting bisons in their kitchens.
Middle East invents the hoe,
Tutankhamen is wrapped to go.

Wall of China, fall of Troy,
Mrs. Plato it's a boy!
Chinese guy invents the compass,
Sphinx's nose goes caddy-whumpus.
Greeks tweaks weak's noses,
Discus throwers' naked poses.
Birth of Buddha, birth of Rome,
Caesar shoulda stayed at home.
Alexander on the brink,
Socrates has one last drink.
Rome's flames climbs higher,
Nero playing "Light My Fire."
Wise men follow Eastern star,
Christmas comes but once so far.
Eclipses measured by the Mayans,
Christians gobbled up by lions.
Nobles dining, peasants whining,
Roman Empire starts declining.
Tons of Huns in every village,
Wearing t-shirts; "Born to pillage."
Byzantines defeat the Vandals,
There's Mohammed wearing sandals!
Holy Roman Empire founded,
Vikings tell the world "You're grounded!"
Raping, looting, burning, stealing,
Ain't the Army life appealing?
Leif Ericsson, Navy nominee,
Year one thousand, Anno Domini,
Waiting out the storm he's lost in,
Hangs a left, discovers Boston.
French invade while Brits not looking,
Still can't rescue British cooking.
Four Crusades, and then all bets off,
Genghis Khan is lopping heads off.
Mongol hordes are Mongol hording,
Stealing what they ain't affording.
Bow replaced by gun and cartridge,
Lousy time to be a partridge.
Middle Ages comes in stages,
Knights in armor all the rages.

Black Death killing half of France,
Your legs fall off inside your pants.
Printing press an aid to learning,
Joan of Arc says "What's that burning?"
Spanish Inquisition gruesome,
Stretching makes a guy a twosome.
Columbus says to Ferdinand,
"Look what I found; lots more land!"
Da Vinci flaunts his Renaissances,
Martin Luther takes his chaunces.
Rubens' reputation grows on
Sketching babes without their clothes on.
Norse's forces plot new courses,
Henry Eighth invents divorces.
Mary Queen of Scots beheaded,
Real bad way to end up deaded.
Spain's Armada turned and ran,
The Shoguns divvy up Japan.
Says King James, theologizing,
"Gee, the Bible needs revising."
Indians eye some beads and satin,
Gain some jewelry, lose Manhattan.
Drake wonders where he got to,
Shakespeare writes "To be or not to."
Galileo on the run,
Thinks the earth goes round the sun;
Says "It's in my telescope!"
"No it isn't," says the Pope.
Noah Webster starts with "A..."
That's why you can't spell today.
Spinning jenny used by many,
Cotton Dockers half a penny.
King George taxes tea and foodstuffs,
Then goes on to really rude stuffs.
Favors labors, rattles sabers,
Paul Revere wakes up the neighbors.
Betsy stitches stars and stripes,
Jefferson declares his gripes.
Revolution, Constitution,
Franklin risks electrocution.

Pasteur dreams a nifty cure up,
 Bonaparte is creaming Europe.
 "Let them eat cake" Antoinette says,
 "Lose the bimbo," Lafayette says.
 Guillotines are record holders,
 Separating heads from shoulders.
 James Monroe stands up and vows;
 "There's a Doctrine in the house."
 Beethoven has golden gift,
 Takes a second, writes the "Fifth."
 Bright idea of Samuel Morse's
 Lays-off fifty thousand horses.
 Europe fused, Swiss excused,
 Queen Victoria not amused.
 Dickens warrants "My next trick'll be
 Writing all of Nicholas Nickelby."
 Karl Marx gathers flunkies,
 Darwin says we're mostly monkeys.
 Civil War a nation bloodies,
 Four years later: back to buddies.
 Bell's phones ruins slumber,
 Watson gets unlisted number.
 Edison takes volt and amp,
 Tells his wife "I fixed your lamp."
 Freud perplexes both the sexes,
 Makes his patients nervous wreckses.
 1903; year of flight,
 Orville barfs on Wilbur Wright.

(SMOKE COMING FROM TOASTER. JOHNNY SPEEDS UP:)

Kaiser sore, World at War,
 One-to-nothing final score.
 Then, when Germans feeling better,
 Second game of double-header.
 Frank's Yanks' tanks win,
 Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin.
 Girls swoon, Beatles tune,
 Yankee golfing on the moon.
 Watergate's missing tapes,

Darwin's right about the apes.
"Read my lips...no new taxes,"
Lincoln spinning on his axis.

(JOHNNY PICKS UP PLATE)

That's what history records,
If you don't like it, eat my shorts.

(SFX: "DING!")

(WAFFLES POP UP, TOASTED...THEY JUMP ABOUT A FOOT.
JOHNNY PUTS PLATE UNDER WAFFLES AND CATCHES THEM.)

(APPLAUSE)

(MUSIC: UP-TEMPO PLAYOFF, AS JOHNNY PUTS SYRUP ON
WAFFLES)

