

A Readers' Theater Adaptation of Patricia Lauber's *What You Never Knew About Beds, Bedrooms & Pajamas*

By Nicki Stohr

Text from *What You Never Knew About Beds, Bedrooms, and Pajamas* by Patricia Lauber, illustrated by John Manders. Copyright © 2006. Used with permission of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

Characters:

Narrator 1
Narrator 2
Narrator 3
Narrator 4
Narrator 5
Narrator 6
Narrator 7
Narrator 8

Narrator 1: This script comes from the nonfiction book, *What You Never Knew About Beds, Bedrooms, & Pajamas*, by Patricia Lauber and illustrator John Manders.

Narrator 4: Learn the facts about beds, bedrooms and pajamas in this true but funny account that explores under the bed covers since the Stone Age.

Narrator 2: Everyone gets tired and needs to sleep.

Narrator 6: Much of the time, horses sleep standing up.

Narrator 3: Bats sleep while hanging upside down.

Narrator 7: Humans like to sleep lying down. In North America, Europe and some other parts of the world, people sleep in beds with frames, mattresses, sheets, blankets and pillows.

Narrator 5: Beds are usually found in special rooms that were named for them—bedrooms.

Narrator 3: But it wasn't always this way.

Narrator 6: Today, bedrooms are used for a lot of things besides sleeping.

Narrator 2: They are also places to keep cloths, do homework, play games entertain friends, and read. But neither has this always been the case.

Narrator 1: Sleeping in the Stone Age

Narrator 7: Stone Age people spent much of their time searching for food by hunting, fishing, and gathering plants.

Narrator 3: They moved with the seasons, following the food. It must have been a tiring life.

Narrator 1: What did they do for beds? How did they stay warm on a cold winter's night?

Narrator 2: No one knows for sure, but we can guess.

Narrator 4: Most likely they cut boughs from trees, spread hides or furs over them, and used more furs as blankets. For greater warmth, a whole family probably shared a bed. Perhaps friends and relatives joined them.

Narrator 5: Some Stone Age people made tents out of hides. In these tents, platforms piled with furs may have served as beds.

Narrator 1: Sleeping in the Ancient World

Narrator 7: About nine thousand years ago. People in some parts of the world learned how to farm.

Narrator 5: Now they no longer had to travel in order to eat. They could raise food and live in one place all year.

Narrator 2: Villages, then towns and cities, sprang up. There were houses and palaces. And in them were beds.

Narrator 1: The Egyptians

Narrator 3: The earliest beds we know of come from the Egyptians about seven thousand years ago. Egypt had no forests, and trees were scarce.

Narrator 6: The first beds were made of wicker, with cords for an under-mattress. Some were used for sleeping at night others were used as couches or day beds.

Narrator 5: Later Egypt traded grain for wood and Kings and Nobles had wooden beds.

Narrator 7: Some frames were carved with animals, flowers, or fruit which were inlaid with gold, ivory, and mother-of-pearl.

Narrator 4: In these beds the head was higher than the foot, and a footboard kept the sleeper from sliding off.

Narrator 3: Egyptians did not use pillows in bed. They used headrests, which were most often carved from wood.

Narrator 4: No one is sure why they did this although a headrest may have been cooler than a pillow on a hot night

Narrator 2: Historians used to believe that Egyptians used headsets to keep their hairdos neat at night but it is now known that this was not so. Except for the poor, everyone wore a wig – and took it off at night.

Narrator 1: Egyptians liked to shave their heads because a bald head was easier to keep clean and free of lice.

Narrator 1: To find out more fascinating things about beds, bedrooms, & pajamas read *What You Never Knew About Beds, Bedrooms, and Pajamas* by Patricia Lauber.