

GRADE FIVE THEATRE CURRICULUM
Module 4: Theatre Company

Enduring Understanding

Playmaking: A class can be a theatre company.

Essential Question

How does a theatre company function?

Domain	Process	Standard
PERCEPTION	Observing/ Responding	1.1 Use the vocabulary of theatre, such as sense memory, script, cue, monologue, dialogue, protagonist, and antagonist to describe theatrical experiences.
CREATION	Playmaking / Writing	1.2 Identify the structural elements of plot (exposition, complication, crisis, climax, and resolution) in a script or theatrical experience. <i>2.3 Collaborate as actor, director, scriptwriter, or technical artist in creating formal or informal theatrical performances.</i>
	Role playing / Acting	2.1 Participate in improvisational activities to explore complex ideas and universal themes in literature and life.
CONTEXT	Putting into Cultural and Historical Context	3.4 Identify types of early American theatre, such as melodrama and musical theatre.
	Critiquing	4.1 Develop and apply appropriate criteria for critiquing the work of actors, directors, writers, and technical artists in theatre, film and video.
	Organizing	5.1. Use theatrical skills to dramatize events and concepts from other curriculum areas, such as reenacting the signing of the Declaration of Independence in history social science. 5.2 Identify the roles and responsibilities of performing and technical artists in theatre, film, television and electronic media.

Essential standards and **supporting standards** to be assessed.

Sample Performance Task

1. Work with your class to create a theatre company and perform a [melodrama](#). In your journal compare/contrast different types of early American theatre.

Sample Scoring Tool:

Quality Level	1. Artistic Perception	2. Creative Expression Grade 5 Standard 2.1, 2.3	3. Historical / Cultural Context Grade 5 Standard 3.4	4. Aesthetic Valuing	5. Connections Relationships, Applications Grade 5 Standard 5.2
4 Advanced		Shows leadership skills when collaborating in an ensemble	Elaborates on the different types of early American theatre		Creates a job description for various roles and responsibilities in a theatre company
3 Proficient		Collaborates with ensemble to create melodrama	Identifies types of early American theatre		Identifies roles and responsibilities in a theatre company
2 Partially Proficient		Some evidence of collaboration with ensemble to create melodrama	Attempts to identify types of early American theatre		Attempts to identify roles and responsibilities in a theatre company
1 Not Proficient		Does not collaborate with ensemble to create melodrama	Does not identify types of early American theatre		Does not identify roles and responsibilities in a theatre company

Developing Concepts

A theatre company is comprised of various artists working together.

Key Ideas:

- Theatre productions require intense cooperation from a variety of personnel.
- All theatrical jobs are essential for a successful performance.

Knowledge**Vocabulary****Skills****Cooperation**

- Develop a concept for the production
- Select specific theatrical jobs: artistic, technical and organizational
- Meet regularly to share ideas

Melodrama is an early American style of theatre.**Key Ideas:**

- Melodrama is a distinct type of theatre with a specific set of conventions.
- Melodrama developed in early America in response to the type of entertainment welcomed by audiences.
- Other types of early American theatre were popular.

Knowledge**Vocabulary**

- [Melodrama](#)
- [Melodramatic conventions](#)
- [Vaudeville](#), [Musical Theatre](#), [Minstrel Shows](#), [Burlesque](#), [Operetta](#), [Pageants](#), [Traveling Shows](#), Wild West

Skills**Production**

- Rehearse including all melodramatic conventions
- Coordinate all technical elements of production
- Promote attendance

Research

- Review in depth the conventions of melodrama
- Investigate other early American types of theatre

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare and contrast melodrama with another form of theatre
<p>All production elements are consistent with the melodramatic style.</p> <p>Key Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costuming, sets, sound effects, and music reflect authentic early American melodrama. • Acting style is exaggerated and based on stereotypical characters. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge</p> <p>Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stereotypical Characters • Stylization 	<p style="text-align: center;">Skills</p> <p>Coordination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a consistent authentic style throughout all production elements • Communicate and revise regularly throughout rehearsal process
<p>Audience interaction is a part of theatre.</p> <p>Key Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audience responses can be spontaneous or designed as part of the production. • Melodramatic conventions invoke overt audience responses. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge</p> <p>Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audience Interaction 	<p style="text-align: center;">Skills</p> <p>Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider spontaneous responses during rehearsal and invite a small audience during the process • Design audience interactive moments based on

	melodramatic conventions
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