

GRADE FOUR THEATRE CURRICULUM
Module 2: California Theatre History

Enduring Understanding

Stories in Action: California has a rich heritage of stories based on distinctive historical characters.

Essential Question

Why do the stories of early California characters provide great material for actors?

Domain	Process	Standard
PERCEPTION	Observing/Responding	1.1 Use the vocabulary of theatre, such as plot, conflict, climax, resolution, tone, objectives, motivation, and stock characters, to describe theatrical experiences.
	Analyzing	1.2 Identify a character’s objectives and motivations to explain that character’s behavior.
CREATION	Role Playing	2.1 Demonstrate emotional traits of the character through gesture and action.
	Designing	2.3 Design or create costumes, props, make-up or masks to communicate a character in formal or informal performances.
Context	Putting into Historical and Cultural Context	<i>5.1 Dramatize events in California history.</i>
	Critiquing	4.1 Develop and apply appropriate criteria or rubrics for critiquing performances as to characterization, diction, pacing, gesture, and movement.

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

Sample PERFORMANCE TASK

Become part of a wax museum [tableau](#) of an event from California history. Come alive and perform a scene as that character. Use simple technical elements.

Sample SCORING TOOL:

Quality Level	1. Artistic Perception	2. Creative Expression Grade 4 Standard 2.1, 2.3	3. Historical / Cultural Context	4. Aesthetic Valuing	5. Connections, Relationships, Applications Grade 4 Standard 5.1
4 Advanced	/	Demonstrates complex emotional traits of a character through gesture Uses appropriate and expressive technical elements that help communicate the character	/	/	Creates a well planned vivid dramatization of an event in California history
3 Proficient	/	Demonstrates an emotional trait of a character through gesture Chooses technical elements that help communicate the character	/	/	Dramatizes an event in California history
2 Partially Proficient	/	Sometimes demonstrates an emotional trait of a character through gesture Chooses technical elements that may help communicate the character	/	/	Attempts to dramatize an event in California history

1 Not Proficient	/	<p>Does not demonstrate emotional traits of character through gesture</p> <p>No evidence of technical elements that help communicate the character</p>	/	/	Does not participate in dramatization
-----------------------------------	---	--	---	---	--

[Rubric Grade Four Module Two Word doc.](#)

Developing Concepts

Every Californian has a story of how California became their home.

Key Ideas

- California is a state full of diverse people and cultures.
- Personal stories provide material for interesting theatre.

Knowledge

Vocabulary

- Diversity
- Personal narrative

Skills

Storytelling

- Share personal stories of becoming a Californian
- Present story theatrically

Cooperation

- Choose stories to dramatize
- Apply the 5 Ws
- Share group story

California history includes stories about many characters and character types from different time periods and from all over the world.

Key Ideas

- Many different men and women have contributed to the development of California.
- Stories are both fictional and non-fictional.

- Different cultures contributed unique skills to build California.

Knowledge

Vocabulary

- Character Types

Skills

Research

- Find stories of interesting Californians from history
- Explore a variety of characters and events

Character Development

- Create characters physically and vocally
- Interpret personality and emotional traits of characters
- Place characters in historical context

Actors can develop believable historical characters with objectives, motivations and conflicts using the actors' tools.

Key Ideas

- Actors use actual facts and events from history to develop realistic characters.
- Actors understand the importance of objectives and motivation to build vibrant characters.
- Actors use their own body, voice and imagination to become characters.

Knowledge

Vocabulary

- [Objective](#)
- [Motivation](#)
- [Conflict](#)

Skills

Character Building

- Develop [physical traits](#) of the characters
- Develop vocal qualities of the characters
- Analyze objectives and motivations of the characters
- Improvise actual situations that provide conflict

A theatrical performance can be enhanced through the use of simple technical elements.

Key Ideas

- Basic costume pieces can assist in character believability.
- A few carefully chosen props will help with historical accuracy.
- Masks and makeup add interesting detail if appropriate.
- Simple set pieces and lighting effects bring life to the performance.
- Music and sound effects contribute to the history and mood of the p

<p style="text-align: center;">Knowledge</p> <p>Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design• Costumes• Props• Makeup• Masks• Set Pieces• Lighting• Sound Effects <p>Design/Create/Communicate Character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Costumes• Props• Makeup• Masks	<p style="text-align: center;">Skills</p> <p>Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Choose technical elements to support character believability <p>Create</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish historical period with the use of music, sound effects, set pieces and props <p>Collect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gather costume, prop and set pieces that reflect the historical period
---	---