

# DRAMA & THEATRE

## CHALLENGE KIT



This kit was created to assist you in completing the *Drama & Theatre Challenge Kit* program. Included are facts, crafts, recipes, activities and information.



**E-Patches & Crests**  
A Division of 1497202 Alberta Ltd.

Written by: Naila Baig  
Edited by: Lori St. Martin  
Layout by: Nail Baig

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1-877-335-8904

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## **Challenge Kit**

This kit was created to assist you in completing the **Drama & Theatre** program. Included are facts, profiles, crafts, games, puzzles, recipes and information that can be copied and distributed to the participants working on this kit.

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# **Drama & Theatre**

## **Challenge Kit**

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# Detailed Outline

Page 5: **PATCH REQUIREMENTS** is the section of the booklet that details what needs to be accomplished in order to earn each patch.

Page 6-18: **TEACHING PAGES** contain information that can be used to teach the subject being discussed. In this case the topics are:

- ❖ Origins of Western Theatre
- ❖ English, French & Aboriginal Theatre in Canada
- ❖ Genres & Styles of Drama
- ❖ Careers in Theatre
- ❖ Artist Profiles

Page 19-31: **CRAFTS PAGES** detail ideas for crafts that pertain to the subject matter. Includes:

- ❖ Costumes
- ❖ Props
- ❖ Musical Instruments
- ❖ Puppets

Page 32-36: **RECIPE IDEAS** give suggestions about what kind of food would go well with the theme. Some recipes included are:

- ❖ Quick & Easy Snacks
- ❖ Chocolate Fondue
- ❖ Veggies & Guacamole Dip
- ❖ Tortilla Pizza
- ❖ Tangy Mini Cupcakes
- ❖ Sweet Potato Fries

Page 37-48: **GAMES AND ACTIVITIES** are pages filled with fun events for any group to do. The games and activities are divided by age levels:

- ❖ 5-6 Year Olds
- ❖ 7-8 Year Olds
- ❖ 9-11 Year Olds
- ❖ 12-17 Year Olds

Page 49-58: **PUZZLE PAGES** test your mind's skill and endurance with:

- ❖ Props & Costumes Word Search
- ❖ Genres & Styles of Theatre Crossword
- ❖ Message Before a Play
- ❖ Canadian Celebrity Matching Game
- ❖ The Case of the Background Scenery
- ❖ The Making of "Shooting Star" Mad Libs
- ❖ Puzzle Solutions

Page 59: **BIBLIOGRAPHY AND CREDITS**

Page 60: **FEEDBACK FORM**

# Patch Requirements

## TO EARN THE PATCH

- Sparks (5-6 yrs) need to complete 2 requirements from the list.
- Brownies (7-8 yrs) need to complete 3 requirements from the list.
- Guides (9-11 yrs) need to complete 4 requirements from the list.
- Pathfinders (12-14 yrs) and Rangers (15-17 yrs) need to complete 6 requirements from the list.

## DRAMA & THEATRE PATCH

1. Discover the origins of how western theatre began and how it is influenced in Canada today.
2. Learn about the various genres of theatre and the plays which are most famous within those genres.
3. Explore the numerous careers that you could pursue in the field of theatre.
4. Create musical instruments such as a Drum, Tambourine, Cymbals or Guitar and start your own musical band.
5. Design interesting props (such as a Handprint Bouquet) and costumes (such as a Cape) and put on a play for your friends and family.
6. Make two of the finger food recipes and enjoy them together.
7. Use your imagination to present a Paper Bag Skit or a news report in the activity This Just In.
8. Test your observation skills by playing the Spy Game, Double Charades or Object Memories.
9. Solve the crime in Who Did It? Investigate the Crime Scene!
10. Sharpen your acting and role playing skills by becoming a toy in the Magic Toy Shop or exploring a profession in A Day in the Life of...
11. Groove to the steps of the Cha Cha Slide and teach your friends too!
12. Unscramble the names of famous theatre playwrights to reveal the Message Before a Play.
13. Play the Canadian Celebrity Matching Game and see if you recognize some of these famous Canadians.
14. Read the Canadian Theatre Artist Profiles to discover amazing famous Canadian artists, their body of work, and major contributions to the theatre industry.
15. Make the various kinds of puppets such as Origami Dolls or Paper Bag Animals and put on a fun puppet show for your unit!
16. Complete any activity from this kit that is not mentioned above.

# Teaching Overview

- ❖ **Origins of Western Theatre (Greek History)**
- ❖ **English, French & Aboriginal Theatre in Canada**
- ❖ **Genres & Styles of Drama**
- ❖ **Careers in Theatre**
- ❖ **Artist Profiles**

# Origins of Western Theatre

Theatre emerged from rituals, ceremonies and myths. Early societies would practice rituals related to three basic concerns: pleasure, power, and duty. Groups and group leaders would conduct ceremonies to guarantee a successful crop or to please the gods. Usually, these societies also had rituals that glorified supernatural powers, victories, and heroes. Supernatural forms would be represented using costumes and masks. Rituals that were practiced as duty to the gods also brought entertainment and pleasure.

These rituals were accompanied by myths. The myths became a part of storytelling tradition, gaining a life beyond the original rites. This new life allowed the myths to move towards entertainment and the aesthetic. Today, these stories are performed in plays all around the world.

In the West, Greek drama is known to be the earliest form of theatre.

## History of Greek Theatre

Greek theatre refers to productions staged in Athens during the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C. It began as a religious celebration and morphed into a form of entertainment.

## Types of Greek Drama

The most common types of Greek drama were comedies and tragedies. Comedies had a light tone and concentrated mostly on domestic situations, exaggerated characters, nonsensical plots or sensuality. Tragedies had a serious tone, generally contained at least one death, and explored psychological states and moral dilemmas.

## Composition of Plays

The first plays were performed with just one actor (called a protagonist) and a chorus of people who helped him to tell the story. The chorus was a major part of Greek drama and consisted of between 5 and 50 actors. However, throughout the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C., playwrights continued to innovate.

The playwright Aeschylus added a second speaking role, called the antagonist, and reduced the chorus from 50 to 12. His play 'The Persians', first performed in 472 B.C., is the oldest surviving of all Greek plays.

His pupil, Sophocles went on to add a third actor, while Euripides added both a prologue, introducing the subject of the play, and the *deus ex machina*, a divine figure who wrapped up any loose ends at the close.

## Features

Greek theatre consisted of lively dancing, bright colours and music, which is why the singing chorus was such a major component of plays during the time. Topics included violence, lust, war, murder, betrayal, ethical and social commentary, and even everyday life.

## Costumes



Costumes in Greek theatre let the audience know a lot about a character (women, slaves and foreigners were not allowed to participate). Costumes were fashioned to identify female characters, high-heeled shoes were worn for tall characters and the Greeks relied heavily on masks to identify occupations. Masks were also used to change an actor's look because he often portrayed more than one character. In a tragedy, masks were more life-like; in a comedy or satyr play, masks were ugly and grotesque. Masks were constructed out of lightweight materials such as wood, linen, cork, and sometimes real hair.

Image Source: Google Images

<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/interactives/greece/theater/playersProps.html>

### QUICK FACT:

In 468, Sophocles defeated the first of the three great Greek tragedians, Aeschylus, in a dramatic competition.

Sophocles was best known for his writings about *Oedipus*, the mythological figure who proved central to psychologist Sigmund

Freud and the history of psychoanalysis. During his long life Sophocles earned many prizes, including about 20 for 1<sup>st</sup> place.