

History

Theatre was an everyday experience for the wealthy male citizens of Greece. This started in around 550 BC. Theatre performances were in honour of an ancient Greek God – Dionysus. They had festivals and theatre competitions. There were three types – comedy, tragedy and satire (making fun of leaders). Actors used masks and gestures to tell the story and the chorus (singers) told the story like narrators, as an ensemble who moved together. The Greeks took their theatre seriously- it was a way of investigating the world they

Greek Theatre- Year 7, Term 6

Links

What you have done:

Your previous work on gestures in Term One (Mime and Movement) will be further developed.

What you will go on to do: Some of the ideas that the Ancient Greeks had for chorus work laid the foundations for the modern theatre's use of ensemble. You will continue learning about theatre history also when we do both Commedia and Shakespeare in Year 8. When we look at modern theatre practice in Year 9 you can also think about which features came from the Ancient Greeks.



Theatres and Actors

Early Greek theatre consisted mainly of choral chanting. In the 6th Century BC at the festival of Dionysus the poet Thespis introduced a prologue and speech into theatre, making him the first actor.

- Greek Theatres were open air and could fit a large audience- maybe as many as 15 000!
- Greek tragedies involved three actors and a chorus. They all wore masks
- Deixis and Machina was the name given to a contraption used for lowering actors portraying gods onto stage.

Cross-Curricular Links:

English Literature: The cradle of western play writing, Greek myths and fables.

History: Theatre history, early western civilisation

Drama Star Skills



	R	A	G
Creativity			
Teamwork			
Resilience			
Leadership			
Performance skills			
Evaluation			

Magic 5 Skills

Vocal skills: Pitch, Pace, Pause, Projection, Tone, Accent

Physical skills: Movement, Facial Expression, Gait, Posture, Gesture, Body Language

Space and Interaction: Use of Space, Use of Set, Stage Position, Interaction with other Actors

Directing: Stage Directions, Blocking, Dialogue, Subtext, Message of the play, Dramatic Intention

Design: Lighting, Sound, Costume, Set, Props, Puppetry, Setting & Context

