

## Travel the World of Theatre History Unmasked!

**WebQuest Description:** You will explore theatre history from cultures around the world.

**Grade Level:** 9-12

**Curriculum:** Art / Music

**Keywords:** Genre, Greek, Japanese Noh, India Sanskrit Drama, Italian Commedia Dell' Arte

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### Introduction

Take a trip around the world and explore the various genres and cultures in theatre history. You will discover the various performance elements, cultural aspects, playwrights and works, and their era in time. You will find the unifying element that Greek, Noh, Sanskrit, and Commedia Dell' Arte all have in common. Choose your favorite genre to do further research and create a presentation to the class.

### Tasks

Use the following links to discover four historical and cultural theatre genres from around the world. Choose your favorite one and learn more about it to prepare a presentation to the class. Use the questions below to aid you in your discovery! 1. When and where did this genre originate?

2. What are the performance elements and style of this genre (acting, costumes, masks, etc)?

3. What are some examples of works and playwrights?

4. How were shows performed/ type of stage and space? 5. What aspects do Greek, Noh, Sanskrit Drama, and Commedia Dell' Arte have in common?

### Process

Begin your discovery of the following genres of theatre: Greek: <http://www.tctwebstage.com/ancient.htm>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/betapictp#p/search/0/IQOPFxaiaWQ> Japanese Noh: <http://www.theatrehistory.com/asian/japanese.html>

India Sanskrit Drama: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanskrit\\_drama](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanskrit_drama) <http://www.iloveindia.com/literature/sanskrit/plays/index.html> Italian

Commedia Dell' Arte: [http://www.theatrehistory.com/italian/commedia\\_dell\\_arte\\_001.html](http://www.theatrehistory.com/italian/commedia_dell_arte_001.html)

<http://www.delpiano.com/carnival/html/commedia.html> Use these links as a springboard for your own research. Pick your favorite one, of these four genres, and prepare a creative presentation for the class! This could include, but not limited to: photos, costumes, masks, models, media presentation, etc. Be prepared to answer questions in a class discussion.

### Evaluation

| Category and Score |  |  |   |  | Score |
|--------------------|--|--|---|--|-------|
| Answers            | Includes only 1 or 2 factors from questions                    | Includes answers to 3 out of 5 questions                       | Answers at least 4 of the given questions                 | Includes answers to all 5 questions and beyond     | 25%   |
| Creativity         | Bare minimum presentation                                      | Shows little effort of creativity                              | Shows some creative effort for presentation               | Presentation includes many creative elements       | 25%   |
| Communication      | Does not communicate knowledge well                            | communicates some knowledge in a below average standard        | Shows average communication skills in presentation        | Communicates knowledge well in presentation        | 25%   |
| Understanding      | Does not show understanding of assignment or elements of genre | Shows little understanding of assignment and elements of genre | Average understanding of assignment and elements of genre | Fully understands assignment and elements of genre | 25%   |
|                    |  |  |   | Total Score  | 100%  |

## Conclusion

Congratulations! You have completed the webquest portion of the evaluating and synthesizing cultural and historical theatre unit. Now take this information from your research and prepare to share it with the class. I am looking forward to your creative presentation!

## Teacher Page

This webquest was created for beginning drama students to learn more about Greek, Noh, Sanskrit, and Commedia Dell' Arte genres of theatre history in an interactive way.

Theatre Curriculum Standards Grades 9-12  
CLE 5.1 Understand, compare, and contrast various genres and periods of dramatic literature.  
CLE 5.1 Identify various genres and historical periods of theatre.  
Compare and contrast various genres and historical periods of theatre.  
Discuss the different acting techniques associated with various genres and historical periods of theatre.  
SPI 8.1.1 Describe how the Greeks and Romans contributed to the origin of theatre.  
SPI 8.2.1 Discuss the role of theatre in Greek and Roman cultures.  
SPI 8.2.2 Demonstrate an understanding of the role of theatre throughout history.  
SPI 8.3.1 Discuss theatre in various cultures.  
SPI 8.3.2 Demonstrate an understanding of theatre in various cultures.

### **Standards**

### **Credits**

### **Other**