

Magic Circus Study Guide

The Incredible Magic Hat Show

Award-winning multicultural learning!

Multicultural, Theater & Performing Arts and History Learning

This program addresses the 21st Century Learning Skills and aligns with the Common Core and Performing Arts Standards.

ASSEMBLY

Students are delighted by a comical traveler who, daydreaming at a train station, launches an imaginary journey around the world and through history. Using a hat brim that transforms into a "chapeau" - featuring hats from a variety of cultures and professions, more than 25 quick-change characters are brought to life.

Accompanied by sound effects and famous musical scores, vignettes with visual jests and situations are presented using comedy, magic, mime and "chapeaugraphy".

OBJECTIVES

Students will learn about theater through observing, responding and audience participation

- Creative Movement & Body Language
- Chapeaugraphy & Quick Change Magic
- Mime
- Facial Expression & Non Verbal Communication
- Use of Props, Music and Sound Effects

Students will learn about universal body language in different cultures from around the world. Student will experience the portrayals of historical moments and multicultural characters. This will connect students with their personal cultural backgrounds as well as deepen their understanding of the cultural backgrounds of their peers.

The optional **Q & A follow up** after the performance with the performer will deepen the understanding and experiences.

MIME

Is a performing art form and a theatrical technique. Without words using gesture, expression, movement and body language, a play or a story or a role is acted out.

The world's greatest contemporary mime artist was Marcel Marceau.

Marceau (1923 – 2007) was an internationally acclaimed French actor and mime most famous for his mime persona Bip. Benny Bendini studied the Marcel Marceau mime technique in Europe.

BODY LANGUAGE

Body language is a type of a [nonverbal communication](#) in which physical behaviors, as opposed to words, are used to express or convey information. Such behavior includes [facial expressions](#), body posture, [gestures](#), eye movement, touch and the use of space. Body language exists in both animals and humans. Body language, complements verbal communication in social interaction. In fact some researchers conclude that nonverbal communication accounts for the majority of information transmitted during interpersonal interactions. In a society, there are agreed-upon interpretations of particular behavior. Some interpretations may vary from country to country, or culture to culture. On this note, not all body language may be universal.

CHAPEAUGRAPHY

is an art form that was developed 400 years ago, at the time of the Commedia del Arte in France and Italy - the time when Moliere wrote his comedies and plays. In that time it was fashion in Europe to wear elaborate big hats. 200 years later people added big feathers to their big hats. Chapeau is the French word for hat.

In the USA chapeaugraphy became first very popular in the beginning of the 19th century through performances on the vaudeville stages and in the circus. At that time many people were wearing hats according to the profession they were working in. You could tell what their profession was by looking at their hats.

Felicien Trewey performed his chapeaugraphy act in the 1890's. He made some of the first films with the Lumiere Brothers.

Nowadays we do not wear so many different hats. Magic Circus brought chapeaugraphy into the present time by showing not only historical characters and characters from around the world, but also by folding the shape into different objects.

MAGIC

The word Magic has its origins in ancient Greece.

Many magic effects have been practiced already centuries ago in China and India.

In European history we find paintings of Street Magicians from the Middle Ages. The modern magician character was developed by the French illusionist Jean-Eugène Robert-Houdin. He inspired the famous American magician and escape artist Houdini.

Magic inspires our imagination as we see the impossible made possible. In that way it opens our minds to think in new ways.

PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES

A great preparation for "The Incredible Magic Hat Show" is an exploration of Body Language:

- Make a facial expression and show it to the person next to you, have him/her mirror it, and then transform it into another expression. Give that expression to the next person.
- Can you show us: Happiness with your eyebrows or in your shoulders? Surprise in your chin? Sadness in your eyes? Excitement in your legs or with your hands? Explore your own way of expression and emotion.
- What can you tell about people by the way they walk, sit, wave, or even breathe?
- It's been said that people are a head person, a chest person, or a hips person, depending on where they move from - where their "center" is. Which type is each person here: one by one, students cross before the class portraying a person and the class determines where their "center" is. Which type are you?
- Study photographs depicting actors or real people with a strong physical presence, then asks each student to make three observations about each photograph, based on posture or gesture.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

- Bring historical and multicultural characters to life. In what part of his body, do you think Napoleon's physical "center" was, (head, chest, or hips)?
- One shape makes many objects: Present to the class any simple object, for example, a shoe, a bowl, or an umbrella. Invite students to imagine what else it might be and show it. (Examples: The scarf might be a trumpet, or a cell phone. The umbrella turns into a satellite dish, or a steering wheel.
- Multicultural Characters: Review different countries and their typical hats, gestures and music.
- Historical Characters: Explore which historical moments and characters were demonstrated in the show. Have you already witnessed a historical moment in your lifetime?

Characters with historical and geographical references:

Spain

Matador, Bull fighter in Seville, Spain (background photo). Spanish-style bullfighting is sometimes fatal for the bull, but it is also dangerous for the matador. It still continues in nine countries, in Spain, Portugal, France, Colombia, Mexico, USA, Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru. In recent years bullfighting's popularity has dwindled considerably as animal rights groups have raised awareness, leading to permanent bans in Catalonia and the Canary Islands. In California, in the Central Valley Portuguese immigrants practice bull fighting by using velcro sticks that do not hurt the bulls. This is a safer way to portray this Spanish cultural heritage.

Italy

Gondolier. Venice, the capital of northern Italy's Veneto region, is built on more than 100 small islands in a lagoon in the Adriatic Sea. It has no roads, just canals. Two hundred years ago, there were 10,000 gondolas in Venice. Today, there are about 400 gondolas in service, used only by tourists.

Pizza. Modern pizza evolved from similar flatbread dishes in Naples, Italy in the 18th or early 19th century. The word pizza was first documented in A.D. 997 in Gaeta and successively in different parts of Central and Southern Italy. Pizza was mainly eaten in Italy and by emigrants from there.

France

Edit Piaf -[La Vie en rose](#)" (1946), Édith Piaf was a French singer-songwriter, cabaret performer and film actress noted as France's national chanteuse and one of the country's most widely known international stars. Years active: 1935–1963

Background photo: *Eiffel tower*. Constructed from 1887 to 1889 as the entrance to the [1889 World's Fair](#). The Eiffel Tower is the most-visited paid monument in the world; 6.91 million people ascended it in 2015.

Can-can. The can-can is a high-energy, physically demanding dance that became a popular music-hall dance in the 1840s, continuing in popularity in French cabaret to this day. Originally danced by both genders, it is now traditionally associated with a chorus line of female dancers.

Napoleon Bonaparte was a French statesman and military leader who led many campaigns during the French Revolution and the French Revolutionary Wars, and was Emperor of the French. The war against Russia resulted in the collapse of the Grande Armée. The British exiled him to the remote island of [Saint Helena](#) in the South Atlantic.

Germany

Bavarian Folk dance / Schuhplattler. The Schuhplattler is a traditional style of folk dance popular in the regions of Bavaria and Tyrol (southern Germany, Austria and the German-speaking regions of northern Italy). In this dance, the performers stomp, clap and strike the soles of their shoes (Schuhe), thighs and knees with their hands held flat (platt).

Background photo: *Neuschwanstein Castle*, a 19th Century palace was commissioned by King [Ludwig II of Bavaria](#). It is now open to the public, more than 1.3 million people visit it annually.

Rumania

Count Dracula is the title character of Bram Stoker's 1897 gothic horror novel *Dracula*. Though *Dracula* is a purely fictional creation, Stoker named his infamous character after a real person Vlad III, Prince of Wallachia.

Great Britain

Titanic was a British [passenger liner](#) operated by the [White Star Line](#) that [sank in the North Atlantic Ocean](#) in the early morning hours of 15 April 1912, after striking an [iceberg](#) during her [maiden voyage](#) from [Southampton](#) to [New York City](#).

USA



Old American flag (background photo)

The Betsy Ross flag is an early design of the flag of the United States, named for early American upholsterer and flag maker Betsy Ross.Its distinguishing feature is thirteen 5-pointed stars arranged in a circle representing the 13 colonies that fought for their independence during the American Revolutionary War.

Yankee doodle song

The song was a pre-[Revolutionary War](#) song originally sung by British military officers to mock the disheveled, disorganized colonial "[Yankees](#)". It was also popular among the Americans as a song of defiance. Yankee Doodle had turned from being an insult to being a song of national pride.

Apollo, Moon landing mission

Apollo 11 was the spaceflight that first landed humans on the Moon. Commander Neil Armstrong and lunar module pilot Buzz Aldrin formed the American crew that landed the Apollo Lunar Module Eagle on July 20, 1969.

Grand Master Flash is an American DJ and record producer. He is considered as one of the pioneers of hip hop DJing, cutting, and mixing.

Firefighter. A firefighter is a rescuer extensively trained in firefighting, primarily to extinguish hazardous fires that threaten life, property, and the environment as well as to rescue people and animals from dangerous situations

Elvis Presley (1935 –1977). Elvis, was an American singer, musician and actor.

He is regarded as one of the most significant cultural icons of the 20th century and is often referred to as the "King of Rock and Roll" or simply "the King".

Mexico

Mexican Hat Dance is a combination of two tunes: [Jarabe Tapatío](#) and La Raspa.

Jarabe tapatío is the national dance of Mexico and was composed in the 19th century.

Nowadays, its music is most commonly performed by either [mariachi](#) groups or string ensembles.

Peru

Machu Picchu is an Incan citadel set high in the Andes Mountains in Peru, above the Urubamba river valley. Built in the 15th century.

Pan Flute is a musical instrument based on the principle of the closed tube, consisting of multiple pipes of gradually increasing length. Multiple varieties of pan flutes have been popular as folk instruments. The pipes are typically made from bamboo, giant cane, or local reed.

India

Fakirs in India practice sleight of hand magic and stunts like laying on a bed of nails.

The *Taj Mahal* (background photo) was designated as a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#) for being the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's heritage. It was commissioned in 1632.

It is regarded by many as the best example of [Mughal architecture](#) and a symbol of India's rich history. The Taj Mahal attracts 7–8 million visitors a year.

China

Wu is a Chinese term translating to “shaman” or “sorcerer”, originally the practitioners of the wu in ancient China no doubt held a place of great importance.

Background photo: The *Forbidden City* is a palace complex in Beijing, China, and with a total area of 720,000 square meters, it is the largest palace in the world.

Constructed from 1406 to 1420. It was declared a [World Heritage Site](#) in 1987.

USA

Ringling Bros Circus Museum. The Circus Museum, established in 1948, is the first museum of its kind to document the history of the circus. The museum has a collection of handbills, posters and art prints, circus paper, business records, wardrobe, performing props, circus equipment, and parade wagons.

Ringling Bros. World's Greatest Shows was a circus founded in the United States in 1884 by five of the seven [Ringling brothers](#). The Ringling brothers were sons of a German immigrant, August Frederick Rüngeling.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus ended in 2017. Modern Circuses like Cirque du Soleil in the USA and Circus Roncalli in Europe use no animals in their shows.

BON VOYAGE SAFE TRAVELS
GUTE REISE Buen viaje
Bonan vojaĝon

BUON VIAGGIO călătorie plăcută
Yīlù shùnfēng 一路顺风
aapakee yaatra shaanadaar ho

SAFE TRAVELS

This program addresses Learning Skills and aligns with Educational Standards:

21st Century Learning Skills

Learning and Innovation Skills

Critical thinking: Finding solutions to problems

Creativity: Thinking outside the box

Collaboration: Working with others

Communication: Talking to others

Life Skills

Flexibility and adaptability, social and cross-cultural interaction

California Arts Standards in Theatre K-12

- The Arts as Communication
- The Arts as a Creative Personal Realization
- The Arts as Culture, History, and Connectors
- The Arts as Means to Well Being
- The Arts as Community Engagement
- The Arts as Profession

Common Core Standards

K - 6 Language Arts

Knowledge of Language

Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different countries, to comprehend more fully when reading and listening.

6 -12 Language Arts

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

Comprehension and Collaboration

Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on other's ideas and expressing their own.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information.

History and Social Study

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse formats and media, including visually and quantitatively (e.g. videos or maps) with other information in print and digital texts. Integrate information from diverse sources into an coherent understanding of an idea or event.

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information.

