

Revive, Contemplate, Integrate Lesson Plan

Your Name: Danielle Strange and Leigh Catterton

Grade: 5th

School: Elk Neck Elementary

County: Cecil County

Unit of Study: Theatre and Social Studies

Lesson Title: Dancing with Dionysus

Walters object: *Sarcophagus with Triumph of Dionysus* can be found under [teachers.thewalters.org/ Math/Ancient](http://teachers.thewalters.org/Math/Ancient)

Objective: The students will demonstrate their understanding of the ancient Festival of Dionysus and aspects of Greek culture through dance and theater combined with components of the social studies fifth grade communities unit. Students will explore elements of dance and theatre in order to establish a deeper understanding of ancient Greek culture. The catalyst will be the Sarcophagus Dionysus, which will be displayed and discussed.

Content Standards

<p>Theatre</p> <p>1.0.2 Identify and describe the visual, aural, oral, and kinesthetic elements of dramatic performances</p> <p>2.0.2 Demonstrate knowledge of theatrical conventions as performers and as an audience</p> <p>2.0.b interpret the form and content of dramatic texts expressively</p> <p>Dance</p> <p>1.0.2.a Demonstrate knowledge of how elements of dance are used to communicate meaning</p> <p>2.0.3 Demonstrate understanding of the relationships between and between dance and other content areas</p> <p>3.0.2 Develop the ability to combine the elements, aesthetic principles, and choreographic forms of dance to</p>	<p>Social Studies</p> <p>2.0 Peoples of the Nations and World: Student will understand the diversity and commonality, human interdependence, and global Cooperation of the people of the world through a multicultural and a historic perspective.</p> <p>3.0 Geography: Students will use geographic concepts and processes to examine the role of culture, technology, and the environment in the location and distribution of human activities and spatial connections throughout time.</p>
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communicate meaning	
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Materials / Class resources

- CD player with music by Petros Tabouris
- Lesson plan from the Walters' website. Go to www.thewalters.org/Education/InteractiveMedia/Math/Ancient/Matter of Scale Lesson Activity (2 copies)
- Greek fact theater facet sheet, map of Greece
- Copies of the play "The Frogs" written by the Ancient Greek playwright Aristophanes

Teacher Resources

- History of Theatre by Oscar Brockett
- Mythology Timeless Tales of Greek Gods and Heroes by Edith Hamilton
- Petro Tabouris "Ioniki Dance"
- Greek Maps and Facts <http://ancienthistory.about.com/od/poets/playwriters/p/maps>

Vocabulary / Disciplines

(Theatre) Mythology, Sarcophagus, Dionysus, Greek Gods and Goddess
(Dance) Generos Chain, Grapevine, shapes,
(Social Studies) Mapping, Ancient Greece, Athens, Pericles

Prior Knowledge

Students should know the roles of the Twelve Olympians to better understand the "plight" of Dionysus and the roles of the various Gods and Goddess. This background knowledge will help students understand the humor in the play. Students should also learn a bit about the Greek Festivals to understand how the playwrights were in competition for the audiences favor with their work which was being performed at the festivals.

Art Form

Our art piece was a Greek Sarcophagus depicting the Festival of Dionysus. Our art piece was combined with forms of dance and theatre.

Content

Dance, Social Studies and Theatre (see content standards above)

Description of Lesson/Activities

Day One- lesson One – (Over View) Students will be introduced to ancient Greek Culture through Greek art, dance, and theatre. Students will learn a classic Greek dance called the Gerenos (on day two). Students will tie these arts into the Greek festival of Dionysus the deity of theatre and performance. Students will be expected to make connections among these art forms in order to have a stronger understanding of Greek Culture. It is the expectation of the teachers that students will be able to recall aspects of ancient Greek culture through the teaching of this unit.

Activities: (Theatre / Mythology / Festival of Dionysus)

- ◆ Students will be briefly introduced to the ancient Greek map with the expectation that they will be able to find Athens, the center of Greek culture.
- ◆ Students will examine the Sarcophagus Dionysus on the Walters Art Museum website. They will use the math scale puzzle to put together the Sarcophagus Dionysus. This will hang in the classroom for them to refer back to(see above for links).
- ◆ Students will review the symbols of the Greek deities and then perform a “shape movement” activity based on these symbols (see attached). The expectation is that students will connect the symbols with what the Greek gods represented i.e. lightning bolt – Zeus.
- ◆ Students will examine the culture of the festival and how the playwrights would compete against others and how often the festivals would last for a week or more. The expectation is that students, as their end product, will produce a “competition piece” for their mock festival.
- ◆ Students will be given a Greek theater fact sheet.
- ◆ Students will bring the day’s activities together by acting a portion of a script that students will perform in their final class combined with dance. “The Frogs”
- ◆ Students will review the information through teacher questions about the festival and where it took place.

Day Two- lesson two – (55 minutes) (Dance and Social Studies) Students will start with recalling facts from previous lesson. Students will be shown shape cards based on symbols of Greek deities. Students will move through shape movement as a warm up for the dance. The Students will then recall the artwork and the shapes that are created in the piece of work in order to prepare for the dance. They will then learn the steps to the Greek Gerenos Dance that goes with ancient Greek performance.

The dance is performed as a winding mazelike dance. The students will be arranged boy girl boy girl. They will wind around the room in a chain moving through shapes that were created from their shape cards. The music is Petros Tabouris’ “Ioniki Dance”

Day Three-lesson three Rehearsal and performance of students' festival to Dionysus - bringing the knowledge of ancient Athens as cultural center of Greece together with a mini theatrical and dance performance showing the historical and cultural relevance of ancient art forms.

Activities

- ◆ Students will be broken up into two performance groups, one for the Geranos chain dance and one for the play.
- ◆ Students will combine knowledge of the ancient festival of Dionysus with their own "competition piece" as if they were entering their performance in the festival.
- ◆ Students will be assessed based on their expressiveness of text and movement in performance.

Assessment Strategies

- ◆ Teacher questions
- ◆ Performance of end product / "competition piece" for the Festival of Dionysus

Performance Rubric

5 points – Student was able to work collaboratively in groups

5 points – Student could show knowledge of ancient Greek Geography

5 points – Student could identify and show portions of Geranos chain

5 points – Student could recall the relevance of Dionysus as a Greek deity

5 points – Student could produce end product for performance

5 points – Student can articulate the importance of art, theatre, and dance on a culture (historical relevance)

30 points

Ancient Greek Theatre History Fact Sheet

Dionysus was the god of theatre according to the ancient Greeks. He was the son of Zeus.

Dionysus was often a character represented in Greek comedies as were other deities like Zeus and Cupid.

Comedy is amusing and humorous situations often depicting human flaws, weaknesses, and misunderstandings.

Greek plays consisted of only male actors.

Ancient Greek Actors used the mask to identify various characters.

Actors wore masks representing characters and to assist in projecting voice over crowds of up to ten thousand.

In Ancient Greek comedies there were 24 actors in the chorus. In Greek Tragedy there were 12 to 15 chorus actors.

There were three main actors in comedy each often doubling or tripling roles.

Aristophanes was a Greek Comedic writer. He won the Festival Dionysus eight times. His play THE FROGS won in 405 B.C.