GRADE FOUR THEATRE CURRICULUM
Module 4: Dramatizing California History

Enduring Understanding
Playmaking:We can dramatize events in California history.

Essential Question
How does theatre help us to understand the past and the present?

Domain	Process	Standard
PERCEPTION	Observing / Responding	1.1 Use the vocabulary of theatre, such as plot, conflict, climax, resolution, tone, objectives, motivation, and stock characters, to describe theatrical experiences.
	Analyzing	1.2 Identify a character's objectives and motivations to explain that character's behavior.
CREATION	Role Playing / Acting	2.1 Demonstrate the emotional traits of a character through gesture and action.
	Staging	5.2 Dramatize events in other content areas.
CONTEXT	Organizing	**5.3 Exhibit team identity and commitment to purpose when participating in theatrical experiences.**
	Putting into Historical and Cultural Context	*5.1 Dramatize events in California history.*
	Critiquing	4.1 Develop and apply criteria to critique performances as to characterization, diction, pacing, gesture, and movement.

Essential standards and **supporting standards** to be assessed.

Sample Performance Task

1. Work with an ensemble to dramatize an event in California history and perform it for an audience.

Sample Scoring Tool:

Quality Level	1. Artistic Perception	2. Creative Expression	3.Historical / Cultural Context	4.Aesthetic Valuing	5.Connections, Relationships, Applications Grade 4 Standard 5.1, 5.3
4 Advanced					Exhibits **leadership** in commitment to ensemble's purpose **Creatively** participates in theatrical experience
3 Proficient					Exhibits commitment to ensemble's purpose Participates in theatrical experience
2 Partially Proficient					Exhibits **some** commitment to ensemble's purpose **Some evidence** of participation in theatrical experience
1 Not Proficient					**Does not** exhibit commitment to ensemble's purpose **Does not** participat in theatrical experience

Developing Concepts

Working with an ensemble requires commitment to a group purpose.

Key Ideas:

- All contributions to a group task are important.
- Personal issues become secondary to the group work as team identity is

established.

Knowledge	Skills
Vocabulary • [Ensemble](#)	**Collaboration** • Select an event to dramatize • Determine artistic vision • Acknowledge all contributions **Team Identity** • Establish a common approach to achieve the artistic vision • Determine member identity within the team: artistic, technical, organizational

Historical events provide exciting material for dramatization.

Key Ideas:

• Historical events are often filled with conflict.
• Events from history frequently have characters involved in intense human struggles.

Knowledge	Skills
Vocabulary • Conflict • Human Struggles	**Exploration** • Research the event for interesting data • Improvise situations and characters to develop script

Dramatizing real historical events contributes to understanding the past and the present.

Key Ideas:

• Extensive research is required to create a script based on history.

- Theatrical experiences based on conflicts and human struggles in history contribute to a better understanding of modern society.
- People, past and present, share similar human qualities.

Knowledge	Skills
Vocabulary - Empathy	**Research** - Collect information relevant to the event including details of daily life - Make a list of necessary information such as architecture, clothing, food, transportation, shelter **Creation** - Collaborate to improvise and write a script reflecting the circumstances surrounding the chosen event - Develop characters based on research and personal connection - Design technical elements to enhance artistic vision

Production development is influenced by audience prior knowledge of historical events.

Key Ideas:

- Audiences have a variety of backgrounds.
- Productions should build on the particular knowledge base of the audience.

Knowledge	Skills
Vocabulary	**Analysis** - Select an audience for optimum appreciation of the historical subject

	• Develop performance to meet the prior knowledge of the audience