## GRADE FOUR THEATRE CURRICULUM

# **Module 2: California Theatre History**

## **Enduring Understanding**

**Stories in Action**: California has a rich heritage of stories based on distinctive historical characters.

# **Essential Question**

Why do the stories of early California characters provide great material for actors?

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	2.1 Demonstrate emotional traits of the character through gesture and action.	
	Designing	2.3 Design or create costumes, props, make-up or masks to communicate a character in formal or informal performances.	
Context	Putting into Historical and Cultural Context	5.1 Dramatize events in California history.	
	Critiquing	4.1 Develop and apply appropriate criteria or rubrics for critiquing performances as to characterization, diction, pacing, gesture, and movement.	

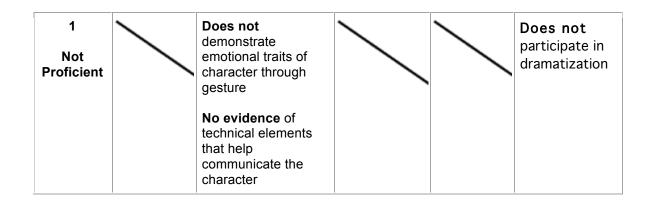
**Essential standards** and **supporting standards** to be assessed.

**Sample PERFORMANCE TASK** 

Become part of a wax museum <u>tableau</u> of an event from California history. Come alive and perform a scene as that character. Use simple technical elements.

# **Sample SCORING TOOL:**

Quality Level	1. Artistic Perception	2. Creative Expression Grade 4 Standard 2.1, 2.3	3.Historical / Cultural Context	4.Aesthetic Valuing	5.Connections, Relationships, Applications Grade 4 Standard 5.1
4 Advanced		Demonstrates complex emotional traits of a character through gesture  Uses appropriate and expressive technical elements that help communicate the character			Creates a well planned vivid dramatization of an event in California history
3 Proficient		Demonstrates an emotional trait of a character through gesture  Chooses technical elements that help communicate the character			Dramatizes an event in California history
2 Partially Proficient		Sometimes demonstrates an emotional trait of a character through gesture  Chooses technical elements that may help communicate the character			Attempts to dramatize an event in California history



#### Rubric Grade Four Module Two Word doc.

# **Developing Concepts**

### **Every Californian has a story of how California became their home.**

#### **Key Ideas**

- California is a state full of diverse people and cultures.
- Personal stories provide material for interesting theatre.

Knowledge	Skills			
Vocabulary	Storytelling			
<ul><li>Diversity</li><li>Personal narrative</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Share personal stories of becoming a Californian</li> <li>Present story theatrically</li> </ul>			
	Cooperation			
	<ul><li>Choose stories to dramatize</li><li>Apply the 5 Ws</li><li>Share group story</li></ul>			

California history includes stories about many characters and character types from different time periods and from all over the world.

#### **Key Ideas**

- Many different men and women have contributed to the development of California.
- Stories are both fictional and non-fictional.

• Different cultures contributed unique skills to build California.

### Knowledge

#### Vocabulary

Character Types

#### Skills

#### Research

- Find stories of interesting Californians from history
- Explore a variety of characters and events

### **Character Development**

- Create characters physically and vocally
- Interpret personality and emotional traits of characters
- Place characters in historical context

Actors can develop believable historical characters with objectives, motivations and conflicts using the actors' tools.

#### **Key Ideas**

- Actors use actual facts and events from history to develop realistic characters.
- Actors understand the importance of objectives and motivation to build vibrant characters.
- Actors use their own body, voice and imagination to become characters.

### Knowledge

#### Vocabulary

- Objective
- Motivation
- Conflict

#### Skills

#### **Character Building**

- Develop <u>physical traits</u> of the characters
- Develop vocal qualities of the characters
- Analyze objectives and motivations of the characters
- Improvise actual situations that provide conflict

# A theatrical performance can be enhanced through the use of simple technical elements.

#### **Key Ideas**

- Basic costume pieces can assist in character believability.
- A few carefully chosen props will help with historical accuracy.
- Masks and makeup add interesting detail if appropriate.
- Simple set pieces and lighting effects bring life to the performance.
- Music and sound effects contribute to the history and mood of the p

#### Knowledge

## Vocabulary

- Design
- Costumes
- Props
- Makeup
- Masks
- Set Pieces
- Lighting
- Sound Effects

# Design/Create/Communicate Character

- Costumes
- Props
- Makeup
- Masks

#### Skills

#### Design

 Choose technical elements to support character believability

#### Create

 Establish historical period with the use of music, sound effects, set pieces and props

#### Collect

 Gather costume, prop and set pieces that reflect the historical period