Make a Clown Costume!

USE THESE INSTRUCTIONS WITH Clown Costume BRAINSTORMING PACKET

Overview
Create a colorful clown costume that displays a unique "character" that fits child personality and circus traditions.

WHY?

By the end of this activity, child will

- Envision and create a clown costume design
  - Use clothing that is appropriate to the circus clown traditions
  - A costume may be purchased but assembling from old clothing that is modified is ideal.

- Select clown design that fits child’s personality and creates a circus character
  - Note: There is a long clown tradition that the costume fits a unique character.
  - Select clown name and character sketch. Set emotional tone thru costume design
  - Remember that the costume is an important part of the "show". It tells a visual story.

- Make costume that is fun, comfortable and interactive
  - What does the costume communicate about the clown character to the audience?
  - Is the costume engaging with the audience in any way? i.e. lapel flowers that squirt water

WHAT?

Get Ready

- Find examples of clown costumes on TV, movies or the web
- Make notes of fun & meaningful design features
- Assemble materials
- PROJECT PLAN - Step 1: Set up vision board; Step 2: Make sketches; Step 3: Create final version.

TIME ESTIMATE

Min. 1 – 2 hrs.

MATERIALS

> Markers, paper, fabric, images, etc.
> Materials for making a “vision board”
> Costume materials? Props?
My Multiple Intelligences engaged . . . Brainstorm pg. 3

- **Visual-Spatial** – costume color, fabric and designs appropriate to circus traditions (hat, gloves, coat, scarf), props
- **Intrapersonal** – Does costume match with the child’s personality and preferences?
- **Kinesthetic** – Does costume encourage gestures and movements for clown performance?
- **Linguistic** – Does clown personality and costume inspire special, amusing dialogue for performance?
- **Interpersonal** – Does costume facilitate interaction with the audience?

### Preparation

Search for examples of circus clown costumes on TV, in movies on the web. Explore the history of clown characters and how their costumes were essential to their performance. Ask friends and family which clowns they like the most or least. See resources.


Can you create a “story” for your clown personality character or feeling?

### PROJECT PLAN

Get Ready! Review Brainstorming Packet for Topic 2 and samples of clown costumes.

**Step 1.** Make a vision board. Use a blank piece of paper and write key words that will guide your design, paste pieces of fabric that you want to use, draw lines/shapes with the colors you like?

**Step 2.** Make sketches to try out a few combinations of colors, fabrics, etc. to see which one you like best.

**Step 3.** Pick your favorite sketch and create your final version!

*Tip: Use your brainstorming packet to guide your project.*

**Reflect:** What did you do? What surprised you? What puzzles you? What would you do differently?

*Record your reflections on page 6 of your brainstorming packet.*

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Fun & Fascinating!

How can you make your costume so it is fun, interactive and amusing to your audience? Will you use s
circus words in your dialogue with the audience? Will you make your clown voice to go with the theme of your costume? Will your costume have special features that show your clown character’s “story”?

FINAL Reflections

The parent should **not** provide an evaluation or grade of the child's performance but instead the child can be queried on the process of creating / performing in the clown character.

- What did you do?
- What stands out for you about this activity?
- What surprises you?
- What would you do differently, if you were to do it again?
- What would you like to do next?

Resources

- See Resources below.
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5Jdux35lUY&app=desktop](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f5Jdux35lUY&app=desktop) - How to Make Costume
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KbSn5mKFwps](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KbSn5mKFwps) - How to be a Clown
- Google Search - How to Make a Clown costume

**Tip:** Community Connections. Is there anyone in your family, neighborhood or community child can talk with about circus?

Class Equivalents / Main Skills
Elementary and Middle School

- Art (Drawing, conceptualizing)
- Drama (Costume design)
- English (Literacy, composition)
- Gather information from resources (CCSSW8)

EXAMPLES/MODELS