

DRAMA RESEARCH: IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME

GROUP 1: ORIGIN OF TRAGEDY

Your group will research and present to the class a basic overview of Greek tragedy. We should have an understanding of the basics based on your research. At the very least, be sure to cover the following:

- What connection does Greek theater have with religion or religious festivals?
- Who is Dionysus?
- Why might Thespis be called “Father of Drama”?
- Who are the three major playwrights of Classical Greece, and what are their contributions to the theater?
- _____
- _____

Culminating Project: In talk show format, come in character and explain how *Antigone* is tragic.



GROUP 2: STRUCTURE OF THE THEATER

Your group will research and present to the class a verbal and visual overview of the physical structure of the ancient Greek theater. We should know what the theater looked like and the function(s) of its different part. At the very least, be sure to cover the following:

- What is the physical structure of a Greek theater? Literally, what did it look like? We need a giant map of it.
- What are the functions of the theatron, orchestra, thymele, skene, proskenion and parados?
- _____
- _____

Culminating Project: Map out a scene from *Antigone* as if you were going to perform it, using the information you found.

GROUP 3: ACTORS AND ACTING

Your group will research and present to the class everything about the actors in the Greek theater and their craft. At the very least, be sure to cover the following:

- Define hypocrite and explain its connection to the Greek Theater.
- Tell us about the actors: Who were the protagonist, deuteragonist and tritagonist.
- Why were all of the actors male?
- Tell us about the costumes and masks used; we need visuals.
- _____
- _____

Culminating Project: Design the costumes and masks for any two characters in *Antigone* and include a rationale for your choices.

GROUP 4: CHORUS

Your group will research and present to the class all things Chorus related—to the Greek theater that is. At the very least, be sure to cover the following:

- Why was music important to the Greeks—especially in connection with the theater?
- What kind of musical instruments were used in connection with the theater?
- What was the purpose of dance with in the theater?
- What were the functions of the Chorus?
- _____
- _____

Culminating Project: Choose a modern song to apply to a scene in *Antigone*. Play it for class during presentation. Include an oral and a written rationale for your choice, focusing on tone and mood. Song choice may be based on melody and/or lyrics.

GROUP 5: CONVENTIONS

Your group will research and present to the class the conventions (customs and practices) of the Greek theater. At the very least, be sure to cover the following:

- What are the three unities in Greek theater?
- What are the purposes of the messenger part/character?
- What would a modern audience see as limitations within the Greek theater? In other words, what would be odd to us? Consider the presence of the Chorus, intermissions, odes, lighting...and anything else you deem noteworthy.
- _____
- _____

Culminating Project: Provide modern day examples of the conventions to show how they still exist or have been modified over time; you may use film, television, or whatever-you-can-think-of-clips to do this.