

Lesson Plan – 18th Century German Theater
The Sturm und Drang of German Theater in the 18th Century
A Time-Travel Lesson Plan

SLO: In what ways will the student analyze the significance of historical movements of 18th Century German theater and its social and cultural impacts of works then and today?

VITAL INFORMATION	
Subjects (s) & Topic(s) Covered	Theatre (T)
Grade/Level	9-12
Standard(s)	<p>Content Area Standard based off the Wisconsin Academic Standards for Theatre Education:</p> <p>TP (Theatre Performance) TD (Theatre Production)</p> <p><u>Standard 4 - CONNECT:</u> Students will relate prior knowledge and personal experience with theatre to cultural and historical contexts.</p> <p>TP.Cn.13.h: Cultural Social Context Compare and contrast how two or more cultural and/or historical traditions impact production, text, or script.</p> <p>TP.Cn.16.h: Cross Disciplinary Evaluate the historical and cultural relationships between theatre and other disciplines and how it can impact society.</p> <p><u>Standard 3 - RESPOND:</u> Students will critically interpret intent and meaning in order to evaluate artistic work. TD.R.11.h: Reflection</p> <p>TD.R.11.h: Reflection Assess personal participation in a production through constructive critique using precise theatre vocabulary.</p> <p><u>Standard 2 - PERFORM:</u> Students will analyze, develop, and convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work.</p> <p>TD.P.19.h: Public Presentation Execute a production element in a classroom or public performance.</p>
Objective(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be able to analyze social, political, and cultural, contexts and relationships of 18th Century theatre in Germany. • Students will analyze how the contexts of culture and movements influenced the content and style of plays. • Students will identify significant playwrights from the 18th Century Germany and how their works were influenced by cultural movements.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will evaluate the impact of 18th Century Germanic Theater in current theatre works and practices. • Students will work collaboratively to make creative decision choices to further explore topics within 18th Century Germanic Theater.
Focus of Lesson	The focus of the lesson is to introduce 18 th Century German Theatre History to students, and to excite them about the differentiating origins of German Theatre from other cultures from a “time travel” point of view. Students will learn about the major movements of the time that propelled the playwrights and culture, and how German theatre has impacted current theatre. Students will get to choose a topic of their choice to explore further and will get a chance to create a way to what they’ve learned via a presentation mode of their choice (Summative assessment).
Assessment/Rubrics (Slide #15)	See Rubric Below.
Time Allotment	120 Minutes Two Class Periods of 60 minutes; One for instruction/worktime, One for worktime/presentations
Materials	<p><u>Teacher Materials:</u> Laptop, projector, PowerPoint slides, paper, pencils, art supplies, markers, posterboard, excerpts of 18th Century German plays for Enrichment Activity, recording device for Enrichment Activity</p> <p><u>Student Materials:</u> Journals, pencils, laptop, access to the internet, Google Classroom, access to PowerPoint slides, access to PowerPoint, Canva, or artistic programming if needed</p> <p><u>Space:</u> Standard classroom space, enough room for presentations, chairs, desks</p>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wisconsin Academic Standards for Theatre Education • YouTube: Watch CrashCourse Theater #27: Why so Angry, German Theater? • Brittanica – Sturm und Drang • Brittanica – Romanticism • History of DNT • Friedrich Schiller – The Robbers • Goethe - Faust • Works of G.E. Lessing • Crouse, Lee. (2024). <i>THE THEATRE IN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY GERMANY</i>. PowerPoint Slides.
IMPLEMENTATION	
Prior Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theater History • European History • Italian Renaissance Theater History • Commedia dell’arte (zanni)
Collaboration & Student-Centeredness	Students have the opportunity to choose a topic that excites them about 18 th Century German Theater. Students will get to work together to do a deep exploration of their topic, and they will get to choose a mode of presentation on how they would like to display their acquired knowledge, including a mock interview, “teach the class,” or a time travel brochure. The amount of topics and modes presents a variety of possibilities, making this portion of the lesson exciting and full of endless choices made by the students.

<p>Discussions & Topics to Explore</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18th Century German Theater • Court Theater of Weimar • The similarities and differences of Narr & Zanni • Burg Theatre – Vienna • Sturm und Drang Movement • Weimar Classicism Movement • Johann Van Goethe • Fredrich Schiller • Gotthold Ephraim Lessing • An 18th Century German Play of your choice • Another topic of your choice – Must be 18th Century German Theater
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<p>Cultural References & Impact</p>	<p>Students will explore 18th Century German Theater topics, movements, and playwrights that made this era so significant. Students will make connections between German culture and how it has affected theatre today.</p>
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<p>Introduction/Anticipatory Set -15 minutes</p>	<p><u>Making Connections – Pick 1:</u> Watch CrashCourse Theater #27: Why so Angry, German Theater?</p> <p>Discussion with partner/seat groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What stood out to you in this video? • What are some terms that are new to you? • What would you like to explore further? • Why do you think Germans were late to the theater game?
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<p>Procedures -40 minutes</p>	<p><u>Direction Instruction (I Do):</u> The instructor will go over the vocabulary/input (slide 5).</p>
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<p>Age of Enlightenment</p>	<p>Cultural movement that focused on reason, logic, and scientific thought.</p>
<p>Sturm und Drang</p>	<p>“Storm and Stress.” A literary movement that was meant to overthrow Enlightenment Rationalism.</p>
<p>Weimar Classicism</p>	<p>Literary and cultural movement uniting ideas from Romanticism, Classicism, and the Age of Enlightenment.</p>
<p>Romanticism</p>	<p>Cultural movement that focuses on emotion, individualism, and the glorification of nature and the past.</p>

Presentations – Class Period #2 (~50 minutes)

The instructor will present the options for the “Time Travel” project. Students, in groups, will be able to pick a topic of their choice and do a deep dive into the topic. The idea is “traveling back in time” to 18th Century Germany theater, where students get to pick how they display their acquired knowledge of their topic to the class.

Choices of topics (listed below) can be chosen from, or the students can find a topic that is not on the list but must be related to 18th Century Germany Theater.

Student groups will present their projects to the class during the next class period during the designated presentation time.

Guided Practice (We Do):
Modeling: Slide #13. The instructor will provide an example for a mock interview/podcast interview to playwright Friedrich Schiller. The questions provided are used from the instructor’s research, which is encouraged for students in their project

quests. The instructor is invited to have students help answer the questions on the screen (or some of them) to help them in their practice.

Collaborative Independent Practice (You Do Together):

Pick a Topic to Further Explore:

- Court Theater of Weimar
- The similarities and differences of Narr & Zanni
- Burg Theatre – Vienna
- Sturm und Drang Movement
- Weimar Classicism Movement
- Johann Van Goethe
- Fredrich Schiller
- G.E. Lessing
- An 18th Century German Play of your choice
- Another topic of your choice – Must be 18th Century German Theater

You Choose How to Present Your Findings:

- 1) Time Travel Brochure: Create a brochure that represents your topic in Germany in the 18th Century.
- 2) Teach the Class: Your turn to teach the class what you've learned!
- 3) Mock Interview/Podcast: You get to do an interview about the topic of your choice, as if you are on a podcast!

Required included elements:

Time Travel Brochure:

- 6 segments that provide information on the topic
- 6 photos from reliable sources that enhance the brochure
- Address: Why should someone visit at this time period? How has your topic influence German Theater in the 18th Century and today?

Teach the Class:

- 6 informative slides/graphics that provide information on the topic
- 6 photos from reliable sources to enhance the presentation
- Address: Why did you choose this topic? How has your topic influenced German Theater in the 18th Century and today?

Mock Interview/Podcast:

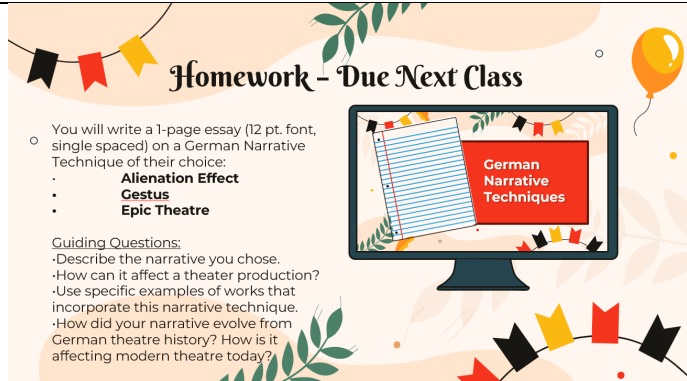
- 6 Questions to ask about your topic (or person if you selected a person)
- 6 Answers to your questions
- Address: Why did you choose this topic? How has your topic influenced German Theater in the 18th Century and today?

Check for Understanding

The instructor can check for understanding throughout the lesson. There is a portion after the instructor explains the expectations of the project to provide clarity (slide #17). During work time, the instructor can be available for clarity.

Another way for the students to be checked for knowledge is the presentation itself, or the checkout slip at the end of class.

<p>Closure – 10 Minutes</p>	<p><u>Reflection</u> Checkout Sheet, 3-2-1: <u>Discuss with the people next to you:</u> 3 Things You Learned Today 2 Things You Want to Investigate More 1 Thing That Inspired You</p> <p>Write these down and hand them in before you leave class.</p>
<p>Differentiation: Remediation & Enrichment Activity</p>	<p><u>Remediation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed captions will be enabled on the YouTube video for students who are DHH. • Students who struggle with writing and analysis will be paired with a student who is a strong writer. <p><u>Enrichment:</u> Students will read an excerpt of an 18th Century German play and analyze the cultural movements that inspired the play, and themes of the play. Time permitting, students may perform a segment of the play for the class.</p> <p>Friedrich Schiller – The Robbers Goethe - Faust Works of G.E. Lessing</p> <p>Or, extend the podcast/interview activity to make it a class wide podcast episode on their various topics!</p> <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a summary of the play based on search findings online and identify themes of the play. • Write a brief biography of the playwright who wrote it and any backstory to the reasoning of writing the piece. • Research the historical and cultural background of the play. • Pick a scene from the play to perform.
<p>Homework Assignment(s) (Slide #22)</p>	<p>Students will write a 1-page essay on a German Narrative Technique of their choice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alienation Effect • Gestus • Epic Theatre <p><u>Guiding Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the narrative you chose. What are its roots from German Theater history? • How can it affect a theater production? • Use specific examples of works that incorporate this narrative technique. • How did your narrative evolve from German theatre history? How is it affecting modern theatre today? <p>Due by next class period.</p>

	 <p>Homework - Due Next Class</p> <p>You will write a 1-page essay (12 pt. font, single spaced) on a German Narrative Technique of their choice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alienation Effect • Cestus • Epic Theatre <p><u>Guiding Questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the narrative you chose. • How can it affect a theater production? • Use specific examples of works that incorporate this narrative technique. • How did your narrative evolve from German theatre history? How is it affecting modern theatre today?
<p>Students' Questions</p>	<p>Clarification Questions from students:</p> <p>Questions during Discussion:</p>
<p>Resources/Ideas from Students</p>	
<p>To Note for Next Year (or the next time the lesson is done)</p>	

Check-Out Slip:

Name: _____ Class Period _____

3-2-1 Check-Out Slip:

Reflection

Checkout Sheet, 3-2-1:

Discuss with the people next to you:

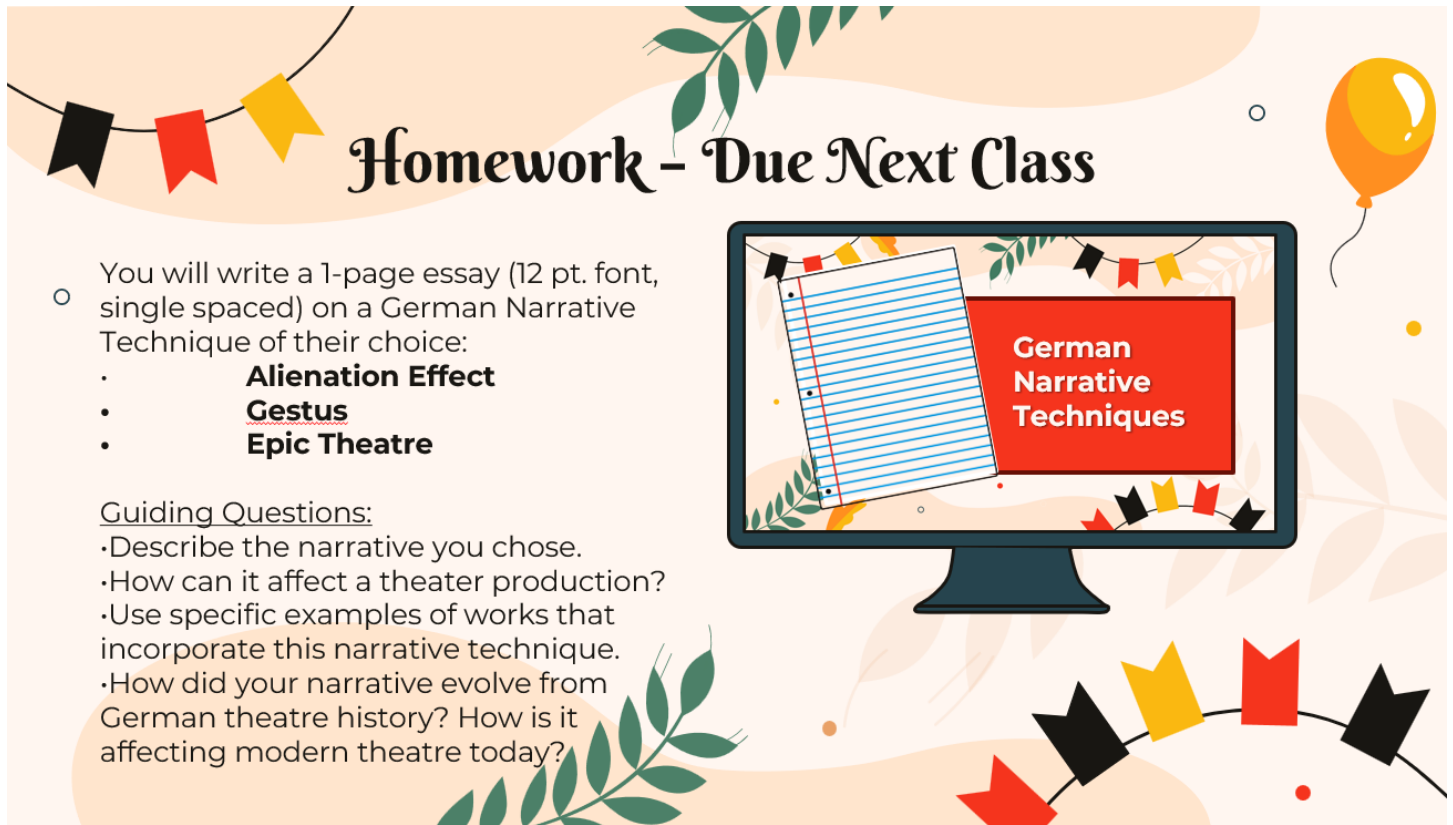
3 Things You Learned Today

2 Things You Want to Investigate More

1 Thing That Inspired You

Write these down and hand them in before you leave class.

Homework:



Homework - Due Next Class

- You will write a 1-page essay (12 pt. font, single spaced) on a German Narrative Technique of their choice:
 - **Alienation Effect**
 - **Gestus**
 - **Epic Theatre**

Guiding Questions:

- Describe the narrative you chose.
- How can it affect a theater production?
- Use specific examples of works that incorporate this narrative technique.
- How did your narrative evolve from German theatre history? How is it affecting modern theatre today?

Assessment Rubric:

Collaboration /20 Points: Work together to pick a topic that interests all of you. Work together to create your project.

Participation /20 Points: All group members must actively and equally participate.

Thoughtfulness/Effort /20 Points: Provide effortful engagement in the creation of the project.

Creativity /20 Points: This is your chance to get creative while learning about this topic! Try something new!

Presentation /40 Points:

=120 Points