

Clip: Swan Lake

Episode 6: Perfection

Activity: Costume

Theme: Dance knowledge

In episode 6, *Perfection*, Tara discovers that Kat's mother is the National Ballet's principal dancer. Tara is invited backstage with Kat and watches *Swan Lake* from the wings.

1. As a class, view the clip, *Swan Lake*, and have students draw/sketch the costumes of the dancers. When performing on stage, dancers wear costumes and makeup to create a character or to draw attention to an idea or intent. Highlight to students that costume designers must consider the needs of the dancer when designing a costume:
 - a. The need to perform certain movements fully and safely.
 - b. The audience's need to see the movement created and airflow.
 - c. The choreographic intent: what is being expressed by the dancer, what is he or she trying to communicate through the dance and how can this be complimented or highlighted?
 - d. Other constraints about the size of the stage and the number of dancers, the floor surface and other environmental factors.
2. Have students consider and discuss what the cygnets are wearing and why their costume was designed in this way? They are to list why different parts of the costume are designed in the way that they are, on the original sketch of the costume. (Refer to photographs of the cygnet dancers in 'Download' section.)
3. Get the students to working individually and choreograph their own 'line' from the cygnet dance and design a costume for the dancers to perform it.
4. Encourage students to draw their designs with crayons, watercolour, pencils, using pieces of cut fabric, magazine cuttings or other textiles, to build up a picture of the colours, style and textures of the costumes.
5. They should also consider the hair and makeup for the dancers, ensuring that they contribute to the overall look and have the capacity to enhance the dance.

6. Provide students with a set of criteria to assess their designs. Ask students to peer evaluate their designs and give each design, including their own, a rating out of five (highest score).
7. Have students complete the **Student Activity Sheet E6.3: Cygnet Dance Costume**.

Download

- Student Activity Sheet E6.3: Cygnet Dance Costume
- Dance Academy Series 1 Episode 6 still#5
- Dance Academy Series 1 Episode 6 still#6

Useful resources

- [Wikipedia, Glossary of Ballet](#)
- [Dance First, Glossary of Ballet Terms](#)
- [Behind Ballet: Into the wardrobe](#)
- [NGV Ballets Russes – The Art of Costume](#)



NAME:

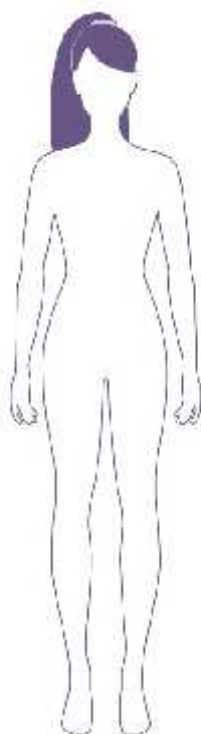
Student Activity Sheet:
Activity:

E6.3
Costume

Episode 6: Perfection
Clip: Swan Lake

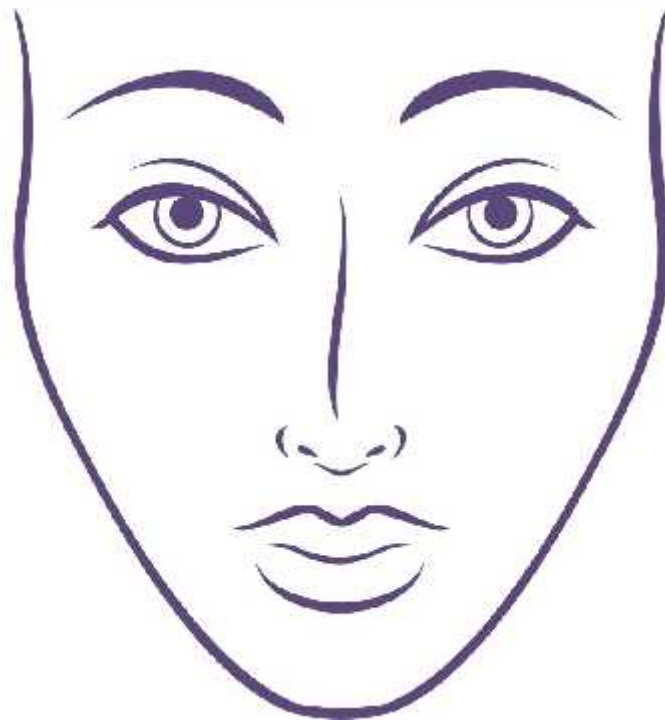
Cygnets Dance Costume

Design a costume for your dance using the outline below:



Pick three elements of your costume (design/colour/shape/fabric) and write a sentence to explain why you designed it that way for each one.

Use your imagination to design the hair, make up and costume (for the face) to match your cygnet dance. Illustrate this design on the face below.



Pick three elements of your hair and makeup design (colour/shape/placement) and write a sentence to explain why you designed it that way for each one.
