

## Episode 7: Crush Test Dummies

## Activity: Hip Hop Fashion

Theme: Dance Knowledge, Dance Skills

Elements of dance: body, space, relationships

Hip Hop culture formed in the 1970s with DJs leading the way at New York Block parties. As the decade progressed, attention turned to MCs and break dancers. At first the followers of Hip Hop dressed for comfort – loose pants, colourful t-shirts (identifying them as members of a crew), and in east coast USA - sneakers. On the west coast of the USA, B-boys and B-girls wore military-inspired fashion with baggy pants and lace up boots. Other fantastic fashion included bling and chunky chains, leather suits, caps and entire outfits worn backward and basketball jerseys over tees. Pants were so baggy that they “pooled in a puddle of fabric stopped only by the open, unlaced top of a Timberland or Lugz boot...Reportedly, this fashion comes from prisons where belts aren’t allowed” ([Counting on Trends: Hip Hop](#), 2009).

1. As a class, watch the clip, *Hip Hop*, and ask students to observe that the dancers do not wear tights or leotards. Various costumes are synonymous with different dance styles. Ask the students what style of costume does a Hip Hop dancer wear? List the various components for future reference.
2. Ask students to research the Hip Hop culture, particularly, the philosophy, the type of society it appealed to, where it originated, who were the leading exponents, the literature, the music, the dance styles, the media associated with the style, and the art it produced. Each distinct part had an impact on the whole cultural dynamic. The students should also look to the past and see what came before the Hip Hop style and therefore what may have influenced its beginnings.
3. As a class, discuss Hip Hop fashion in Australia. Ask students to evaluate what changes were made to the style as it was absorbed by different cultures, particularly Australia and Asia.
4. As a class, plan, design and develop a ‘Hip Hop fashion show’. Consider the roles each student will undertake, using the **Student Activity Sheet E7.3: Design Hip Hop Fashion Show**. Present the fashion show to another class.

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5. Ask students to undertake a self-evaluation regarding their contribution to the fashion show. In this they can discuss their own ideas, their commitment to it, their role, the difficulties they faced and how they responded to the problems. They should present a small report on their activity and give themselves an overall mark for their effort and achievement.

**Download**

- Student Activity Sheet E7.3: Design Hip Hop Fashion Show

**Useful resources:**

- [Hip Hop Fashions \(History\)](#)
- [How stuff works? Hip Hop](#)
- [Pinterest: Hip Hop Street Art and Fashion](#)

NAME: .....

Student Activity Sheet:  
Activity:

E7.3  
Hip Hop  
Fashion

Episode 7:  
Clip:

Crush Test Dummies  
Hip Hop

## Design Hip Hop Fashion Show

With your teacher's assistance, fill out the table on the following page, to help organise your Hip Hop Fashion Parade. Use this sheet regularly to check your class' progress.

Job	People in Charge	Date to complete by	Completed?
Invite another class to watch.			
Find a place for the fashion show to happen.			
Organise seating for the audience.			
Organise music and stereo.			
Research clothing.			
Find clothing.			
Set a date.			
Try clothing.			
Rehearse full show with clothing, music, movement and audience seating.			
Organise lights and a lighting design if applicable.			
Make invitations for the other class.			
Rehearse show.			
Choreograph routine.			
Perform the Fashion Show!			