

Episode 26: Learning to Fly, Part 2

Clip: The Ballets Russes

Activity: Nutcracker Costume

Theme: Dance Skills, Production

1. As a class, view the clip, *The Ballets Russes*, where Tara chooses a dress worn by one of the Ballets Russes dancers. It is a simple costume but the detail is beautiful, it is perfect for the high extensions, leaping and turning she must do as the character, Clara.
2. As a class, [view the images of The Australian Ballet's Behind-the-scenes of The Nutcracker](#) and then play the [Australian Ballet's Costumes video](#).
3. Discuss and list with students the considerations for dance costume design. Particularly highlight certain design requirements such as freedom of movement, partnering work, quick changes, ease of cleaning, storing, and safety.
4. Have students select characters from *The Nutcracker*: either a snowflake, Clara, the prince, the mice army, the children, parents, the Arabians, etc. and have them design a costume for that character. As a class, determine the criteria for the task, which may include: originality, practicality, safety, suitability of fabric, ease of change, etc. They can use **Student Activity Sheet E26.2: Nutcracker Costume** to draft their ideas.
5. Once the students have completed their designs, have students swap with another student who will assess the design according to the agreed assessment criteria.
6. Display the costume designs in the classroom and have students write a positive comment for each.

Download

- Student Activity Sheet E26.2: Nutcracker Costume

Useful resources

- [The Australian Ballet – Photo Gallery - behind the scenes of the Nutcracker](#)
- [The Australian Ballet – video – Costumes, costumes, costumes](#)



NAME:

Student Activity Sheet:
Activity:

E26.2
Nutcracker
Costume

Episode 26:
Clip:

Learning to Fly, Part 2.
The Ballets Russes

Nutcracker Costume

Use the outlines below to design your costume for one, or a group of characters from the Nutcracker.

Be sure to label each design to indicate who the costume is for.

