

Preparing a Minidrama About Life in the West

Your group will create and perform a minidrama to tell the story of one group of people who moved west in the 1800s. Your audience will learn your group's motives for moving west, the hardships your group faced, and the legacies they left behind. Have your teacher initial each step as you complete it.

____ **Step 1: Review the roles.** Make sure everyone understands the responsibilities for his or her role.

Director You will lead the group during Step 3. Make sure your storyboard contains all the required elements.

Script Manager You will lead the group during Step 4. Make sure everyone is equally involved in developing the script.

Props Manager You will lead the group during Step 5. Make sure the props and costumes will help make the minidrama realistic.

Stage Manager You will lead the group during Step 6 as group members rehearse. During the minidrama, you will direct the audience to make sound effects.

____ **Step 2: Learn about your western group.** Carefully examine your image and discuss what it reveals about your group. Then take turns reading aloud the section of Lesson 16 about your group. As you read, complete the Reading Notes for that section.

____ **Step 3: Create a storyboard that outlines your minidrama.** The Director leads the group in creating a storyboard. Your minidrama will have three scenes. The first scene will show the reasons the group moved west, the second will show the hardships they faced, and the third will show the legacies they left behind. The Director will use everyone's ideas to complete the storyboard on the third page of this handout. He or she will make sure each scene includes:

- simple sketches showing each character's positions during the scene and the costumes and props to be used.
- captions describing the characters' most important actions.
- speech bubbles containing key dialogue.
- points at which the audience will participate.

_____ **Step 4: Write the script.** The Script Manager leads the group in developing the script. As you write your script, the Script Manager should make sure it:

- includes a 15-second introductory statement that sets the location and time period of the first scene.
- explains your group's motives for moving to the West.
- describes the hardships your group faced.
- presents the legacies they left behind.
- allows everyone to participate equally.

Each person must make their own copy of the dialogue that the group creates.


_____ **Step 5: Prepare costumes and props.** The Props Manager leads the group in brainstorming and creating costumes and props that will make the minidrama more realistic. As you prepare materials, the Props Manager should make sure everyone has an appropriate costume or prop. During your presentation, the image will be projected on the screen behind you.

_____ **Step 6: Rehearse.** The Stage Manager leads the group in rehearsing the minidrama. You must be able to present your minidrama in five minutes or less. As you rehearse, the Stage Manager should make sure:

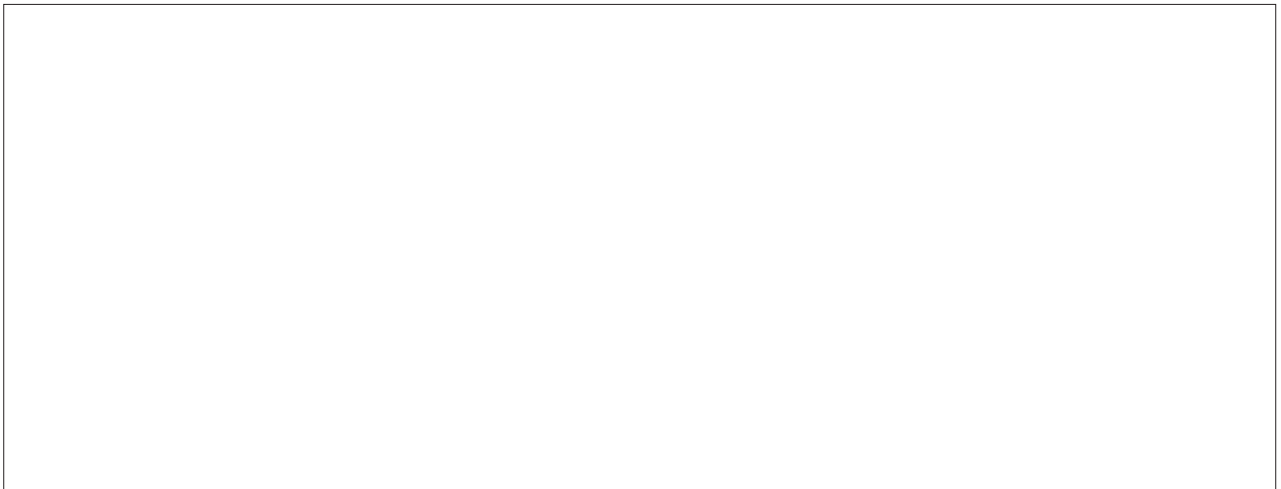
- the presentation flows smoothly.
- costumes and props are used effectively.
- lines are spoken clearly, at an appropriate volume, and with dramatic emphasis.
- the audience participates by providing at least two sound effects.

Storyboard for Your Minidrama

Scene 1: Reasons your group of settlers moved west



Scene 2: Hardships your group faced



Scene 3: Legacies your group left behind

