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Integrating migrant children in schools through artistic expression



Module 4: Our Shared Environment Theme 4C: Performance and the Environment

Prepared by Bath Spa University

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Theme 4C Focus: Our Shared Environment

Theme 4C Learning Activities explore how participants use physical theatre, movement and music to create a series of short performances using the four elements as stimulus.

There will be a focus on:

- ▶ Creation
- ▶ Performance
- ▶ Evaluation

All levels: The Four Elements

- ▶ Ancient cultures all over the world believed that everything was made of a mixture of four elements:
- ▶ Earth (solids), Air (gases), Water (liquids), Fire (plasma)
- ▶ Sometimes these are combined - look at the effect of air on water in this sea storm and of fire on earth when a volcano erupts:



▶ <https://www.maxpixel.net/Kash-Volcanism-Science-Fiction-Lava-volcano-Rock-2676292> (CC BY)

<https://pixabay.com/photos/wave-atlantic-pacific-ocean-huge-1915559/> (CC BY)

All levels: The Four Elements

The four elements all have individual properties :

**Air - communication,
intelligence,
harmony, travel.**



<https://www.maxpixel.net/Summer-Kites-Flying-Fun-Outdoor-2409885> (CCPD).

**Water - purity,
cleansing, birth,
life, change**



<https://www.pexels.com/photo/blue-clean-clear-dew-298949/> CC0 License

All levels: The Four Elements

**Earth - strength,
prosperity, creativity,
security, wisdom.**



**Fire - energy,
power, speed,
freedom**



All Levels: Collage of the Four Elements

- ▶ Make a group collage of the individual elements on a large piece of paper
- ▶ Use your imagination - find photos, drawings, colours, shapes for individual elements and combinations.
- ▶ Share ideas & collaborate to make your collage as big and colourful as possible.

▶ <https://pixabay.com/photos/desert-morocco-sand-dune-dry-1270345/> (CCPD)



All Levels: Physical theatre & the Four Elements

- ▶ **PHYSICAL THEATRE:** use your body to tell a story or create an object or idea.
- ▶ It's often abstract in style - uses movement in a stylised way with little or no dialogue.
- ▶ Make a shape of each of the elements one by one. Then with a friend, then in a group of 3 or 4.
- ▶ Look at the properties of each element on the earlier slides. Can you show these in your shapes? Can you show more than one?
- ▶ Add movement to each shape. What does this look like?
- ▶ Try and move from Fire to Water seamlessly. Try other combinations, then all four.



Level 1: Introduction to Physical Theatre

- ▶ Perform a short sequence which shows all of the elements.
- ▶ Vary the speed and direction of your movement
- ▶ Add some rhythm? Try clapping, stamping, clicking your fingers.
- ▶ Are there any musical instruments such as drums and maracas for you to use? Can you make some out of other objects you have nearby?
- ▶ Can you add any props or costume?
- ▶ Listen to these Baka women playing the river like a drum

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pEgJhfWKq4A>

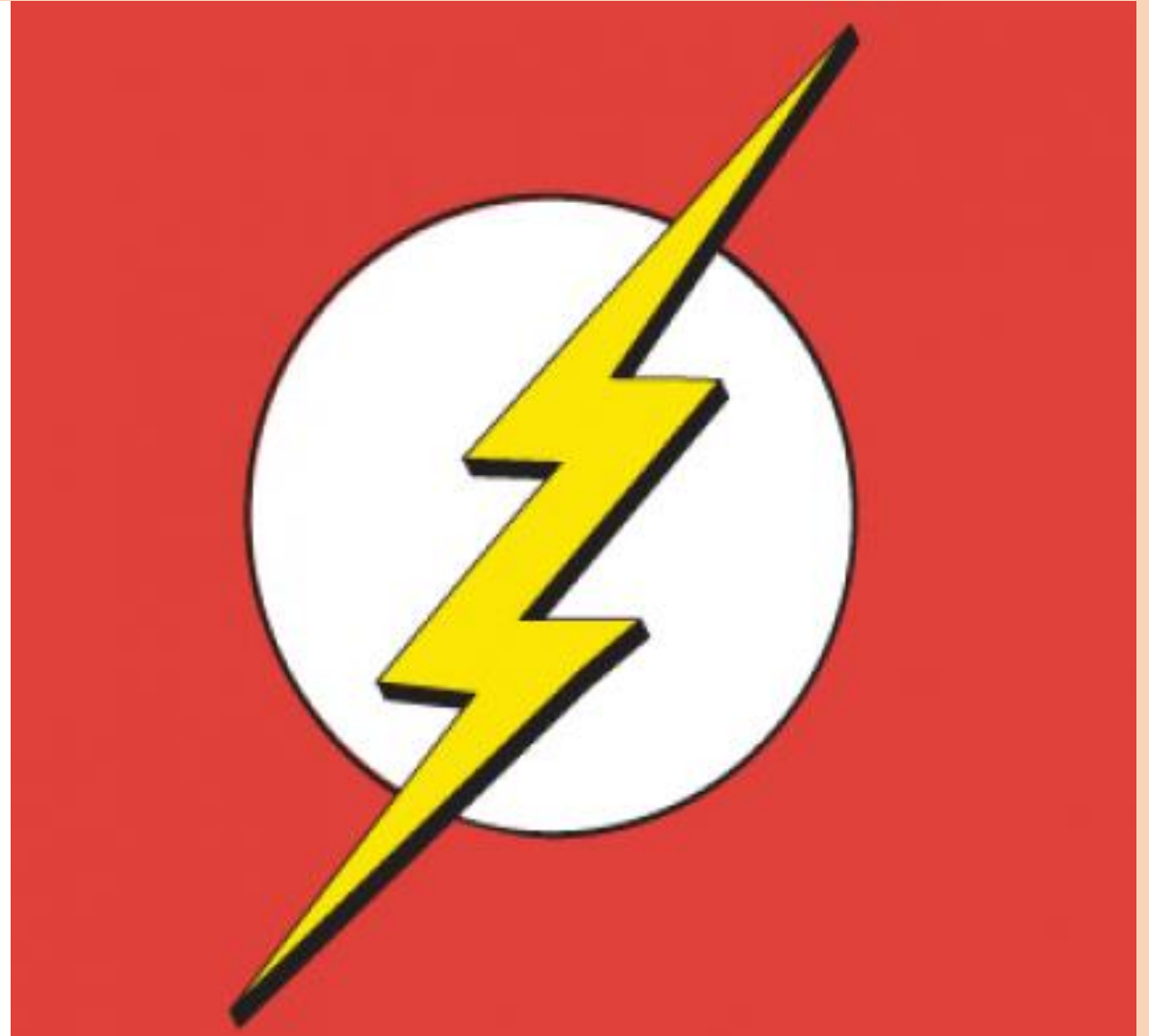
(CCPD) <https://pixabay.com/photos/wave-water-surf-ocean-sea-spray-3473335/>



Level 1: Become a superhero!

- Imagine you are a superhero and have magical powers found in the elements
- You have to save the world!
- Design a logo and costume to show your magical powers.
- Can you make any parts of this costume?
- Work in a small group and go on a journey around the world.
- Make a series of short scenes.
- Put these together to make a performance.
- Rehearse. Add music, props, costume. Perform to an audience

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:L80385-flash-superhero-logo-1544.png> CCPD



Level 2: The Fire Nation Attacks!

Long ago, the four nations lived together in harmony. Then everything changed when the Fire Nation attacked.

- ▶ Create a piece of Physical theatre which shows what happens.....fires, storms, floods, hurricanes.
- ▶ How does it end?
- ▶ Design a costume for one of the elements.
- ▶ Can you make any parts of this costume?
- ▶ Work in a small group and go on a journey.
- ▶ Make a series of short scenes.
- ▶ Put these together to make a performance.
- ▶ Rehearse. Add music, props, costume. Perform to an audience

▶ <https://pixabay.com/photos/tornado-auto-escape-monkey-storm-3198574/> CCPD



Levels 2 and 3: Contrast of the Four Elements

- ▶ Make a list of words to describe the elements. Find some opposite words e.g. strength & weakness, freedom & captivity, calm & stormy....
- ▶ Make a collage incorporating your words which combines two or more opposite elements
- ▶ Perform a short sequence which highlights the contrasting qualities of the elements.
- ▶ Vary the speed and direction of your movement.
- ▶ Add rhythm - clap, stamp, click your fingers.
- ▶ Add musical instruments such as drums and maracas. Make sticks & shakers from objects you have nearby?
- ▶ Add props & costume?
- ▶ Watch this performance called Wind
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McmdbjgV4iQ>

(CCPD) <https://pixabay.com/photos/wave-water-surf-ocean-sea-spray-3473335>



Level 3: Save our world!



- ▶ Imagine you are making a piece of Physical Theatre to be shown at an important conference which is trying to save the planet for future generations.
- ▶ Show the audience both the good and the troubled side of our world.
- ▶ Your Physical Theatre piece could explore some of your personal journeys, and show your vision for the future where we all live in harmony with the planet.
- ▶ Watch these videos from the **Rhythm Project** and **Adunga Dance Theatre**:
 - ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lvPLluBy9CY>
 - ▶ <https://vimeo.com/28955025>
- ▶ In groups make a series of short scenes.
- ▶ Combine scenes to make a performance.
- ▶ Rehearse. Add music, props, costume. Perform to an audience (CCPD) <https://pixabay.com/photos/earth-blue-planet-globe-planet-11015/>

Further Learning Resources

- ▶ **Aakash Odedra** - TED performance: a dance in a hurricane of paper, wind and light.
https://www.ted.com/talks/aakash_odedra_a_dance_in_a_hurricane_of_paper_wind_and_light?language=en
- ▶ **Akram Khan** [www. Akramkhancompany.net](http://www.akramkhancompany.net)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dl7R1p1dtlQ> <http://www.akramkhancompany.net>
- ▶ **Cloud Gate Dance: Songs of the Wanderer**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lg6PrDRuVqc>
- ▶ **Aduga Dance Theatre Company.** From the streets of Addis Ababa and shows how dance can radically change the lives of young people
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LZk7nn1ogJU>
- ▶ <https://vimeo.com/28955025>
- ▶ **DJ Mercan Dede** is a Turkish Muslim who mixes devotional music and dance
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKRY27Bv82s>
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7aldw-drtM>