

ACTIVITY

Staging a Performance

The art of staging requires the talents of many people. When a director thinks about a production there are several elements they must consider. What is the mood of the story? What is the setting? How will the characters be dressed? Where will they enter from? Where will they stand while on the stage?

A team of artists works together to stage a performance, whether it is a film, a play, or an opera. Lighting designers and technicians create the mood. Set designers and scenic artists make the backdrops and props to recreate the world in which the characters live. Props, such as plants and furniture, are used to add detail to a scene.

In this activity use the cutouts provided to stage a scene. Imagine the story that will be played out on the stage. You can use an existing story or create one of your own. As you work, think about the following:

- What is happening during the scene?
- Does your scene take place indoors or outdoors?
- How many people will be in the scene, and where will they be standing as they interact?
- What props and scenery do you want to have on the stage?
- What is the mood of the scene?
- How will all of the elements you choose affect the telling of the story?

This creative activity is all about imagination. Use as much or as little of the provided cutouts as you would like. If your scene requires a large cast or many props, you can print multiple copies of the pages provided. This activity can be done individually or as a group.

What you will need:

- Clear tape
- Scissors
- String
- Small cardboard box
- Standard home printer
- 8 ½ x 11" copy paper
- Optional: Colored pencils, small hole punch

Directions

Using the illustrations provided, select which elements you would like to use in your scene. If you would like to add color to your elements you can use colored pencils to decorate them before you cut them out. Cut along the outside dotted lines. Be careful not to cut where "fold here" is indicated. To make the illustrations stand up, simply fold the tab under each cutout. The folded tab should be behind each illustration. For larger pieces, where indicated, fold the support along the dotted line and tape it to the back of the illustration. Arrange the pieces inside a small cardboard box. A shoe box works well for this activity. The opening of the box should face the "audience." Once you have decided on the placement of the various elements and characters in your scene, use clear tape to affix the tabs to the "stage."

Tip: For a more advanced activity you can draw and create your own figures and props. Add paper curtains and a backdrop to create a more elaborate stage. You can punch holes in the top of the box and insert Christmas lights to light the scene.



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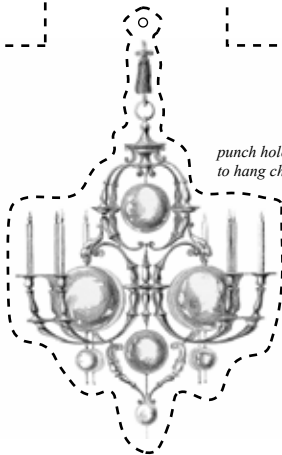
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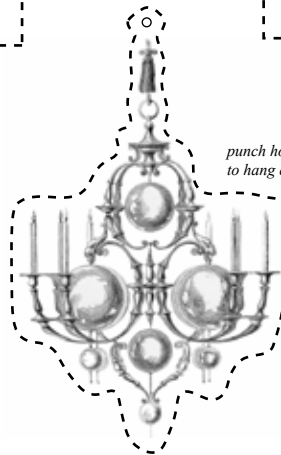
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fold here



*punch hole and tie string
to hang chandelier*



*punch hole and tie string
to hang chandelier*



fold here



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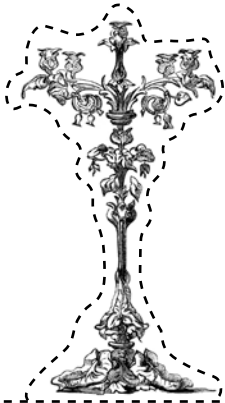
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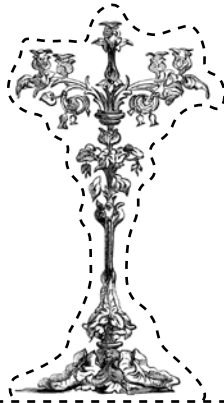
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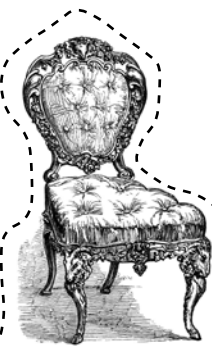
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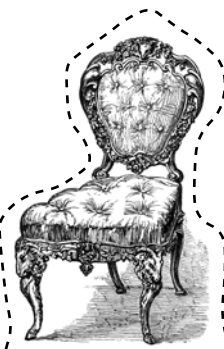
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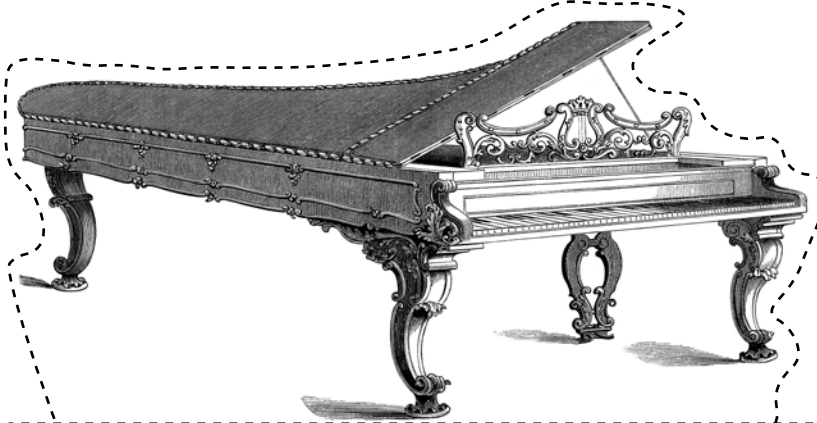
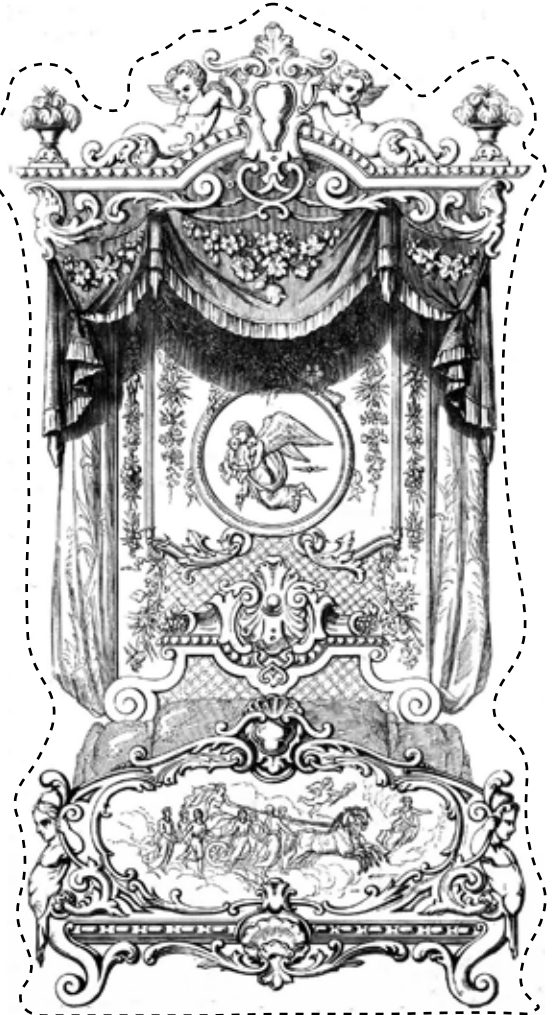
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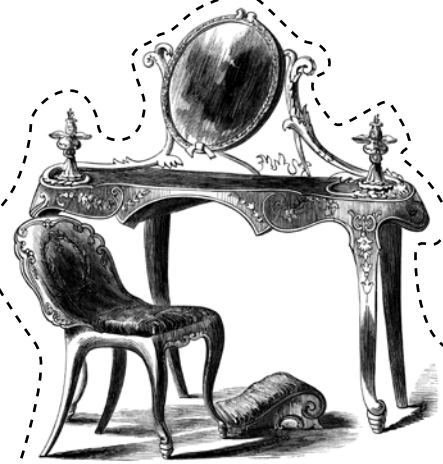
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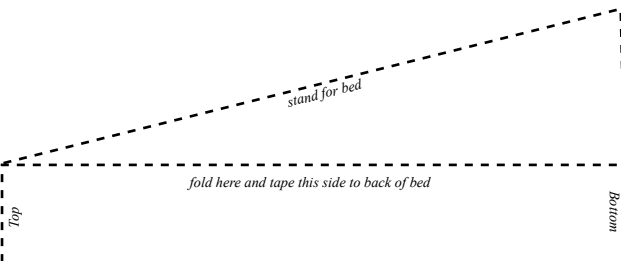
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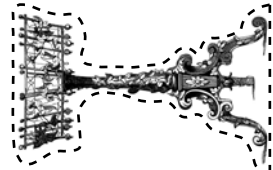
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fold here and tape this side to back of bed

Top

Bottom



fold here

