

Arts – Drama: “How it got its name” Level 1-4

Lesson Description

School? Street? Suburb? Town? It can be any one of those, or all, shared amongst a class divided into groups. If groups, they can be allocated different places, or invited to perform their own story behind the name of a particular place.

What is the story behind the place's name?

There are two possible approaches to answering that question: research and find the factual answer or come up with something completely fanciful. The factual answer, in very few cases, will be dramatic – although that drama would excitingly illustrate some aspect of the life of a person whose name is being remembered.

The groups (or class) act out their story of the name – or a story associated with the person whose name is remembered (this can be scripted or improvised, in either case by the group, depending on experience and aptitude).

Where students may require a particular stimulus to provoke or discipline their thinking one or more objects could be introduced as mandatory inclusions in the drama. For example an item of clothing, an artefact, a geological specimen.

Students may choose to tell their story through mime, through a scene that illustrates the provenance of the name, or an aspect of the name, but does not explain the relationship between the action (narrative) and the place name, or explicitly through dialogue or narration.

Lesson Aim and Objectives

The aim of this exercise, where a factual explanation of the origin of the place name or of an aspect of the name is required, can include research.

Where the class, or groups, may construct an imagined explanation research will not feature.

In both cases, however, an imaginative way of telling the story, through drama is the aim – **the objective, thus, is to get the students thinking about how stories can be told through drama, through the interaction of characters, and through the revelation of either action, or dialogue, or both.**

Materials Needed

Props to stimulate and discipline invention, if deemed appropriate.