



Design a Costume: *Henry V*

This activity can be used at any point in the curriculum. It can also be a fun take-home activity.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Interpret character based on textual clues
- Investigate the historical fashion of 1386–1422
- Design a costume based on character and history
- Defend artistic choices

MATERIALS

- Costume Design Template Handout (page 3)
- Colored pencils, markers, crayons, etc.

INTRODUCTION

The costumes chosen for each character tell a story just as much as the actors wearing them. For this activity, students will get to design their own costume for a character from *Henry V*.

INSTRUCTIONS

Step One: Students choose a character from *Henry V*.

Step Two: Students do a close reading of the script to determine the given circumstances of their chosen character. Remind them that the text may not provide all of these details, so they may need to interpolate based on the information given.

- Where does your character live?
- What is their level of education?
- What is their socioeconomic status?
- Does your character work? What is their occupation?
- Is your character religious?
- Who are the people who have close relationships with your character? How does that inform the way they interact with the world?

Step Three: Students complete research into fashions during Henry V's lifetime (1386–1422), including what people of different ranks would wear. The fashion history website on page 2 is a good resource.

Step Four: Using their work in Step Two, students consider how the character’s costume can communicate their given circumstances. Students should consider the impact of color, fabric choice and silhouette. The Theatrefolk resource below may be helpful.

Step Five: Using their work from Steps Three and Four, students collect inspiration images for their costume in a document, presentation or other format.

Step Six: Using the Costume Design Template, students design their character’s costume using the historical and inspiration research alongside the given circumstances.

Step Seven: Students share their research, designs and rationale with the class.

Optional Step Eight: Students compare the way they costumed their character with the choices made by Costume Designer Trevor Bowen in the Guthrie production. Thinking about the rationale behind their choices, students should consider why Bowen made the choices he did in dressing the character.

RESOURCES

“Category: 15th Century.” Fashion History Timeline.
fashionhistory.fitnyc.edu/category/15th-century/

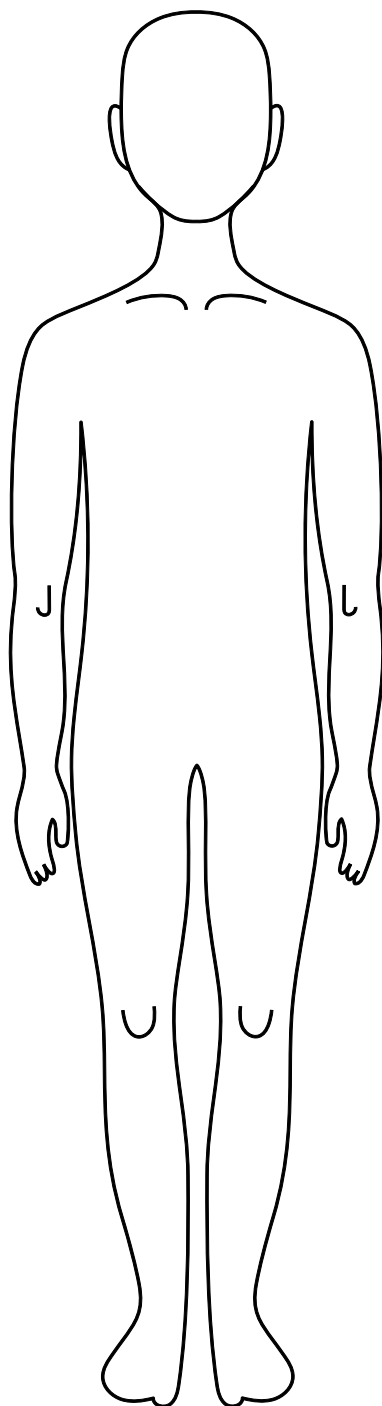


“Telling the Story Through Clothing: Choosing a Colour Palette for Your Show.” Theatrefolk.
theatrefolk.com/blog/telling-the-story-through-clothing-choosing-a-colour-palette-for-your-show

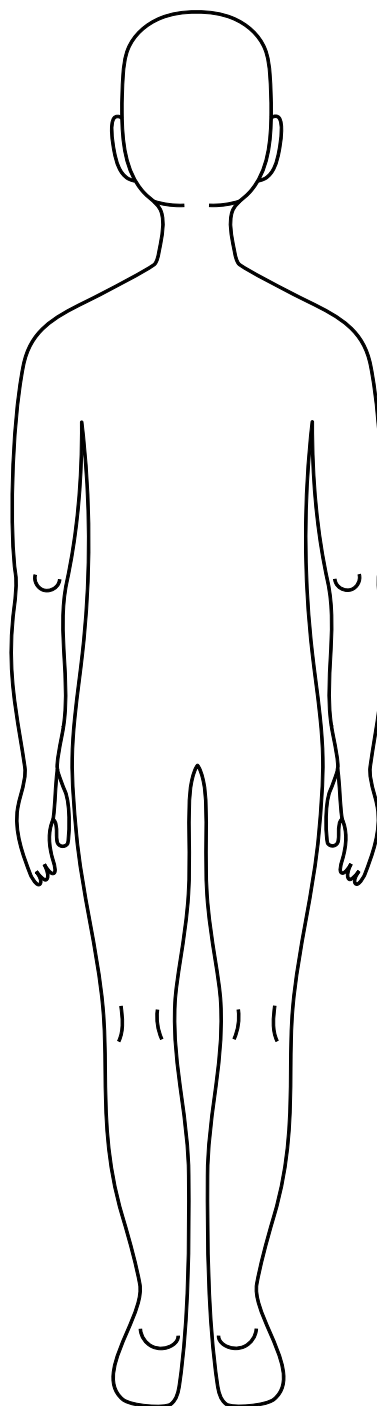


Costume Design Template

DESIGN A COSTUME: *HENRY V*



FRONT



BACK