

4th Grade Production- *There Once Was a Longhouse* Aligned with Common Core Shifts

ELA 1: Balancing Informational & Literary Text	Students access information about the Haudenosaunee through an immersive experience. Students listen to an authentic Iroquois legend. Teachers make connections to Social Studies Standards 1, 3, & 5 and use informational texts from the Native American unit to reinforce content from the play and workshop.
ELA 3: Staircase of Complexity	Students complete the Grade 4 “step” of growth on the sequential dramatics “staircase,” fully participating in the immersive experience of the show, rather than simply viewing a performance, as in past years.
ELA 4: Text-based Answers	Students use the common text (the play script) to reinforce classroom experiences with Social Studies Key Idea 4. Students use the play script and texts associated with this unit to explore the play’s themes and build knowledge of the Haudenosaunee nation.
ELA 5: Writing from Sources	Students respond to writing prompts from Social Studies Key Idea 4, using evidence from the performance and workshop to inform written arguments about the “People of the Longhouse.”
ELA 6: Academic Vocabulary	Students build pivotal vocabulary during the workshop and performance, including “Haudenosaunee,” “three sisters,” and “legend,” “Iroquois” as well as the names of the Five Nations. These terms are closely linked to key vocabulary used to access texts in the Social Studies curriculum.
Math 1: Focus	Students focus deeply on the culture of the Haudenosaunee and their contributions to our world today. Students use ELA and Social Studies skills to reach strong foundational knowledge and deep conceptual understanding.
Math 2: Coherence	Students build on knowledge gained from exploring different cultures during previous MGR performances (Greece in 2 nd Grade and China in 4 th). During the performance, students experience elements of Haudenosaunee culture explored during the preparatory workshop.
Math 4: Deep Understanding	Students activate prior knowledge to access Haudenosaunee culture from the perspective of members of one of the five nations. Students experience concepts from Social Studies come to life and understand how theatre can be used to access different cultures.
Math 5/6: Application/Duel Intensity	Students apply content from the preparatory workshop to the viewing of the performance. They apply Social Studies curriculum knowledge to the immersive experience of the play, acting as members of the five Haudenosaunee nations. Students are actively practicing Haudenosaunee cultural concepts in order to reach deep understanding of this culture’s role in shaping the United States.

Source: engageNY.org

There Once Was A Longhouse & The 4C’s: Super Skills for the 21st Century

1. Communication

Students practice following directions and active listening during the performance and preparatory workshop. They engage in discussion within their groups.

2. Collaboration

This play highlights community within the Haudenosaunee culture. Students will take part in a simulation of a council and the Haudenosaunee’s decision making process.

3. Critical Thinking

Students will make connections to Social Studies Standards and Key Idea 4. They will participate in a council decision to maintain peace or incite war using background knowledge to inform opinions.

4. Creativity

Students use background knowledge and context to act as members of the five nations of the Haudenosaunee in a simulation of life in an Iroquois village. They join MGR actors in instructional storytelling.

Source: Partnership for 21st Century Skills