

Set Design



Theatre set is the scenery, backdrops and props that are used for a production. The set design has a huge impact on an audience's experience of a play as it's the first thing they see when the stage is revealed to them. The design provides essential information such as setting, period and the type of production you're seeing.

Set Designers must make decisions about everything in and around the acting space, such as furniture, raised platforms or playing areas, entrances and exits, and the shape of the space itself.

The Set Designer starts by creating sketches of what they want the stage to look like. They then build a miniature model of the set, which is called a **model box**. This gives them an idea of what the real set would look like.

ACTIVITY BOX - Set Design Model Boxes



Imagine you are the Set Designer for *Anne of Green Gables* – Think about what you would like the design to be like and have a go at making your own theatre model box!

You will need:

- Shoebox
- Scissors
- Coloured Paper
- Felt-tip pens / Coloured pencils
- Glitter Glue
- Pritt stick
- Cellotape
- Sticks (kebab or chopsticks would be the right size or recycle some old pencils!



Instructions:

1. You will need a shoebox to make your theatre. Stand it on its side (lengthwise) and cut an opening on each end. This is where the performers would enter the stage.
2. Use coloured paper to decorate the front of the theatre. Make curtains and frills. Use a black felt-tip pen to mark out the gathers. Accentuate the edges with glitter.
3. Glue the curtains into place, or use cellotape for difficult corners
4. Cut a piece of paper to the same size as the back of your stage. Design a scene that suits the story of *Anne of Green Gables*. Attach it to the back of the box; this will be your **scenery backdrop**.
5. Cut out coloured paper shapes that match your backdrop (trees/houses etc.) Cellotape them to the inside edges of the curtains – these are called **wing flats**!
6. Draw your actors onto thin card (you can use the lid of your shoebox). Colour them in and cut them out. Use cellotape to attach them to the sticks. Remember they will have to enter the stage through the **side-stage** entrances, so check for height!

