

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

STORIES ON STAGE

Before you watch

- 1 Read the word snake from right to left and circle four words related to stories on stage. Then use them to match the photos.

wupegatsnorzteppupxescitaborcadimdrowspl



1 stage



2 acrobatics



3 sword



4 puppet

- 2 Tick (✓) the things you think you see and hear in Beijing Opera.

acrobatics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	puppets	<input type="checkbox"/>
acting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	singing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
complex costumes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	stage decorations	<input type="checkbox"/>
dancing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	sword-fighting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
lots of make-up	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

While you watch

- 3 Watch the video and find out if your answers to Exercise 2 were right. Correct the wrong ones.

- 4 Watch the video up to 02:09. Underline and correct five mistakes in the summary.

Opera developed in China in the 16th century and later became popular all over Europe. Jīngjù began in the 17th century in Beijing. Its stories come from historical novels and modern tales. It helps modern Chinese people to learn about their country's music. There isn't much decoration on stage because Jīngjù focuses on the story.

(China) Italy; (17th) 18th; (modern) traditional; (music) past; (story) performers.

- 5 Watch the video from 02:09 to the end. Are the sentences *T* (true) or *F* (false)? Correct the false sentences.

- 1 Young performers usually start their training when they are five or six years old.

F – They are eight or nine.

- 2 They have to learn singing, speech, acting and dancing.

T

- 3 The sword-fighting in Beijing Opera is very serious.

F – It's play-fighting.

- 4 The costumes are colourful but simple, and the make-up is dramatic.

F – the costumes are complicated.

- 5 The performers try to move beautifully.

T

After you watch

- 6 Discuss the questions below with a partner. Do you agree?

- Do you think the Beijing Opera is a good way to keep old stories alive? Why / Why not?
- Have you ever seen an opera? If you have, what did you think of it? If not, would you like to?
- What story would you like to tell if you were going to write a modern day opera? What would the costumes and set decorations be like?

Students' own answers