ALASKA 45TH ANNIVERSARY JUNIOR THEATER

Alaska Junior Theater's Once Upon a Twist

2026-2027 SEASON



School Shows
February 9 - 12, 2027
10:30 AM & 12:15 PM

Public Show
February 13, 2027
2:00 PM Matinee

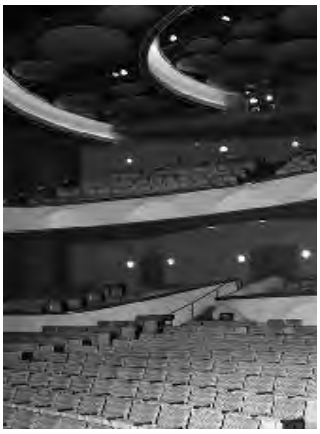
- Curriculum Connections
- Learning Resources
- Performance Background
- Activities for the Classroom
- Theatre Etiquette

Alaska Junior Theater | 430 W 7th Ave, Suite 210 | Anchorage, AK 99501
P: 907-272-7546 | F: 907-272-3035 | akjt.org

Common Core Standards

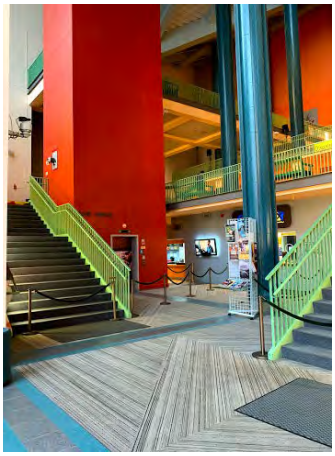


Alaska Junior Theater is a private, nonprofit organization that has been bringing the best in professional theatre from around the world to Alaska's young audiences since 1981. Each year, more than 20,000 students attend a variety of live performances at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. For many students, our school show presentations are their only exposure to live performing arts.



Discovery Theatre, ACPA

Each show we present has a strong educational component, and are linked to Alaska Content Standards. Alaska Junior Theater also offers teacher and student workshops, study guides and classroom transportation to our performances.



Carr Gottstein Lobby

We are committed to keeping ticket prices low, allowing children of all financial levels to experience live professional theatre. Our low educational ticket price of $10 covers only half our costs of presenting shows. To subsidize the remaining $10 of each ticket, we actively fundraise and rely on the support of corporations, foundations and individuals. In addition, we fundraise to offer full scholarships to students with financial need.

Alaska Junior Theater asked area teachers to review our 2026/2027 performances for direct connections to Alaska Content Standards. The direct connections for ***Doktor Kaboom*** are listed below. They will assist in lesson planning and will assure teachers that Alaska Junior Theater programs help classes meet curriculum connections.

Alaska Content Standards	
Science	A 1, 2, 3 B 1, 2, 3, 4 F 1, 2, 3 G 1, 2, 3, 4
Mathematics	C 2 E 1, 2, 3
English/Language Arts	B 1, 3
History	A 1, 2

To get a complete copy of the Alaska Content Standards, visit:

https://www.asdk12.org/commoncore/

Special thanks to Emily Soule for her help in this effort.

Ty's Travels: Lab Magic by Kelly Starling Lyons	E-BEG LYONS
Vivi Loves Science by Kimberly Derting	E DERTING
Frankenslime by Joy Keller	E KELLER
The Princess and the Petri Dish by Sue Fliess	E FLIESS
Max & Mo's Science Fair Surprise by Patricia Lakin	E-BEG LAKIN
Fairy Science: Solid, Liquid, Gassy by Ashley Spires	E SPIRES
Pete the Cat and the Supercool Science Fair by Kim Dean	E PETE-TH
The Pod and the Bog by Asia Citro	J-BEG CITRO
Nick and Tesla's High-Voltage Danger Lab: A Mystery with Electromagnets, Burglar Alarms, and Other Gadgets You Can Build Yourself by Bob Pflugfelder	J PFLUGFE

Non-fiction:

The Wizard's Guide to Magical Experiments by A. J. Wood	J 507.8 WOOD
Outdoor Science: 30 Awesome STEM Experiments to Try at Home by Laura Minter	J 507.8 MINTER
How Do You Become a Mad Scientist? By Madeline J. Hayes	J 507.24 HAYES
Stay Curious and Keep Exploring: Next Level by Emily Calandrelli	J 507.8 CALANDR
Gravity's Pull: 10 Fun Gravity Experiments	J 531.14 SCIENTI
Sheet Pan Science: 25 Fun, Simple Science Experiments for the Kitchen Table by Liz Lee Heineck	J 507.8 HEINECK
The Science Spell Book: Magical Experiments for Kids by Cara Florance	J 507.8 FLORANC
The Awesome Book of Edible Experiments for Kids by Kate Biberdorf	J 507.8 BIBERDO

Graphic Novels:

Science Comics: Volcanoes, Fire and Life by Jon Chad	J GN 551.21 CHAD
Science Comics: Rockets, Defying Gravity	J GN 621.4356 DROZD

Tell us what you think!

Take a quick survey about the show using this link or scan the QR Code:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NF25P6G

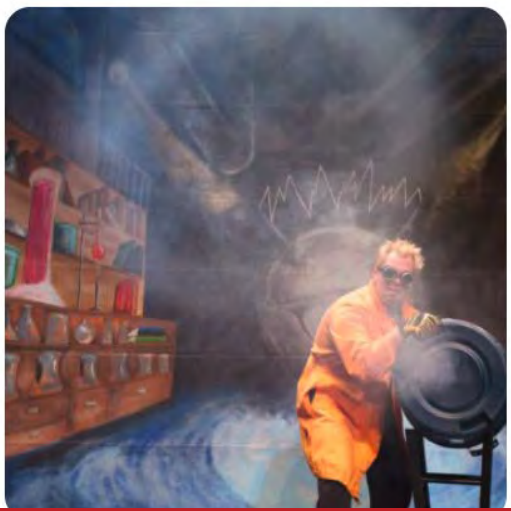
About Doktor Kaboom



Doktor Kaboom is the explosive alter ego of actor, comedian, and award-winning science educator David Epley. Often described as "part Mr. Wizard, part Mister Rogers," David has spent nearly 20 years proving that "serious" science can be seriously funny—and deeply empowering. What began in his parents' basement (on the condition that he cleaned it first) #smartparents)) evolved into a lifelong mission to use science and comedy as vehicles for teaching character, kindness and confidence.

David's foundations are built on rigorous study at the prestigious North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics and university-level research in Chemistry and Bio-Medical Engineering. By fusing this technical expertise with specialized training in improv and character comedy, he has created an "edutainment" style that is unmatched in its ability to inspire.

As Doktor Kaboom, he has performed more than 2,500 live shows for over two million people worldwide. Whether headlining major performing arts centers or developing new work for adult audiences, David's goal remains the same: to leave his audience feeling better about themselves and the world around them.



A veteran of the US Army and former firefighter/EMT, David brings a deep-rooted sense of service to his craft. He currently resides in Seattle with his wife, Annie, and maintains a proud (if long-distance) commitment to their two amazing daughters.



a

One Man, Three Acts, and a Stageful of Fun

Science is a blast, and nothing says scientific discovery quite like "*kaboom.*" So are you ready to share a hilarious hour of science-ational entertainment with Doktor Kaboom? Be sure to raise your hand to volunteer. While this may be a "one-man show," Doktor Kaboom will ask **YOU**, members of the audience, to help spread the fun (and the funny) of science.

In each of his three interactive experiments, Doktor Kaboom will demonstrate a daring spectacle:

1. A Chemical Reaction

Doktor Kaboom has a special mission: to create a fizzy liquid mixture in a gigantic plastic tube. He and his audience volunteer have to be careful to make sure the mixture turns out just right. Will the experiment work as planned? As Doktor Kaboom says, "It's science—what could possibly go wrong?"

Watch for...

- the order of the ingredients
- the moment when the mixture fizzes





2. The Catapult "Schmatapult"

What does a scientist do when he wants to give a banana to someone across the room? Build a catapult for bananas, of course!

Watch for...

- the different parts of a catapult
- the way Doktor Kaboom uses a lever to shoot the banana
- how much force Doktor Kaboom needs to send the banana across the stage

3. The Air Cannon

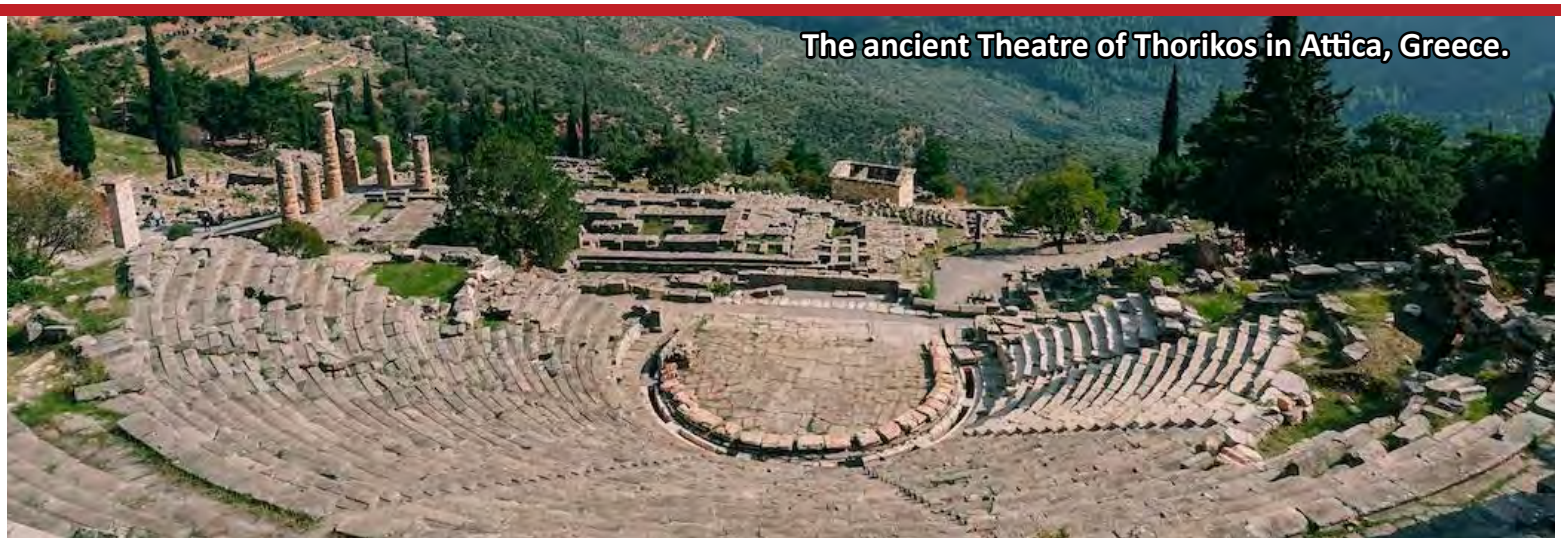
Now it's time to learn about the power of air. You've probably blown bubbles using air, dish soap, and wands. Doktor Kaboom, on the other hand, blows fog machine rings with cannons. If you think his first cannon looks big, just wait for his huge surprise at the end of the show.

Watch how...

- Doktor Kaboom can "show" air
- he sends one fog ring flying through another



Theatre Trivia... Did You Know?


The ancient Theatre of Thorikos in Attica, Greece.

• After a play is over and everyone goes home, there is always a light left on backstage - it's called a Ghost Light!

• The oldest play that is still around today was written by an Ancient Greek named Aeschylus. It's almost 2,500 years old!

• The longest performance on stage was over 23 hours long! It happened in New Jersey in 2010.

• William Shakespeare is a famous playwrite. He wrote 37 plays and is still quoted by many people today. There are 157 million Google pages that mention him - the most of any famous person ever!

• In theatre, it's considered bad luck to tell an actor "Good luck" before a performance. Instead, you're supposed to say, "Break a leg!"

• In Ancient Greece, audiences stamped their feet rather than clapping their hands as a sign of applause.

• The word "Theatre" originally comes form the Greek word *Theatron*, meaning "a place to behold."

• In American English, the word 'theater' can mean either a place here films are shown (also called a cinema) or a place where live stage plays are performed. In British English, 'theatre' exclusively means a place where live plays are performed. 'Theatre' can also mean the business of putting on plays!

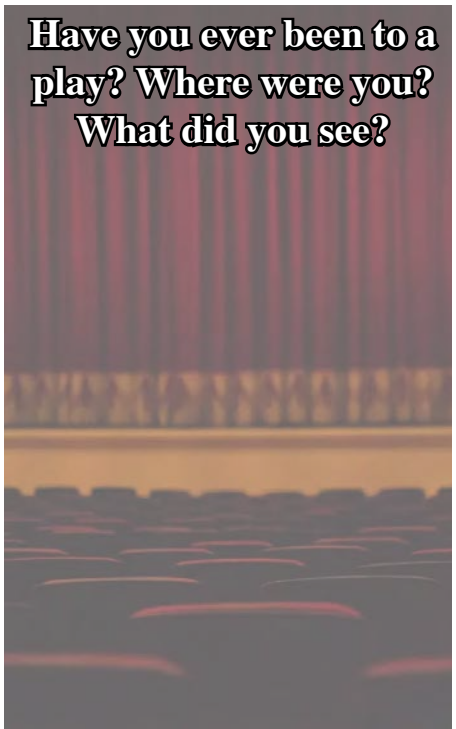
• There are five main types of theatre: Drama, Musical Theatre, Comedy, Tragedy and Improvisation.

• Theatre performances have directors, producers, writers, set designers, lighting designers, makeup artists, costume designers and many more people working backstage, as well as the performers on stage. Many performances also involve live music, played by an orchestra.

• Aristotle was the world's first theoretician of theatre, way back in 384 - 322 BC.

• The word 'thespian' comes from the first person to have taken the stage in Ancient Greece, Thespis.

• The first woman to appear in a Shakespeare play was in 1660, 44 years after Shakespeare's death. It was previously illegal in England for a girl to act on stage.



Teacher's Guide to Creative Drama

An Introduction

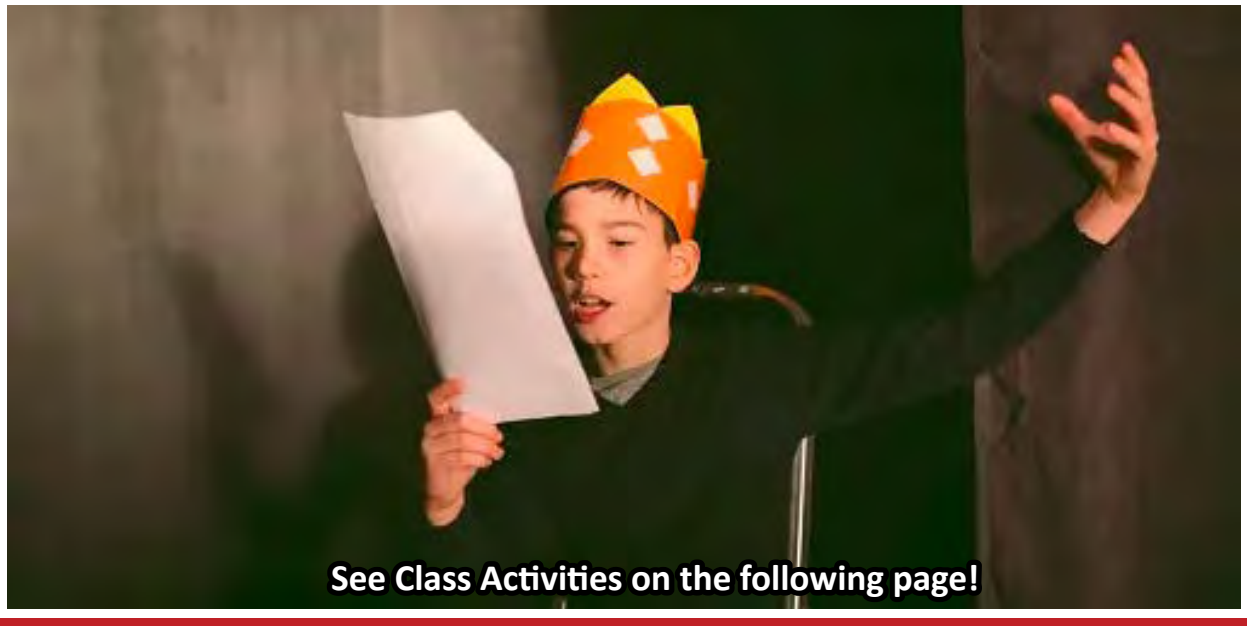




One of the most exciting ways to prepare students of all ages to view live theatre or bring an academic concept or lesson to life is to give them the experience of what it feels like to be an actor in a given situation or circumstance. **Creative Drama** provides an excellent vehicle toward fulfilling this objective. There are many exercises that are easy to implement using the students' whole instrument, including imagination, voice, movement, senses and emotions. The entire class participates at the same time so there is little opportunity for self-consciousness to inhibit creativity.

The following are some simple exercises, suitable for all age groups. No prior drama experience is required of students (or teachers!). These exercises can be done in the classroom if desks can be moved to the side. This can be accomplished quietly and efficiently by making a game of it. A sample scenario might be to encourage students to imagine an earthquake fault line under the room. It is the students' responsibility to move the desks to the side of the room to reinforce the walls. This must be done silently so the fault line will not be disturbed.

[Note: If it is not possible to move the desks, however, most exercises can be done with students standing behind or near their desks.]



Teacher's Guide to Creative Drama

Acting Excercises for Kids!



Warm Up Exercises

Freeze and Move

Using a percussion instrument (small drum or tambourine) or a piece of lively music, ask students to move while the music plays and freeze when it stops. Ask students to move isolated parts of their body (i.e. "now just move your leg, now your head, etc.") If you are using a drum, it can be exciting to vary the speed of the movement by changing the tempo of the beat.



Simple Stretches

Lead students in stretching their bodies. The use of visual images or characters helps make stretching fun. For example, tell students to reach for a silver thread hanging from an imaginary cloud above their head. Tell them to hold on tight and imagine they are swinging high above the neighborhood. Sometimes the strings might disappear. Students should then drop, loosely. Repeat this several times. Students can then stretch out wide like a big tree, swivel like a snake, stretch their necks long like a giraffe's, make their bodies small like a tiny mouse, etc.

Grooming the Senses



In place, encourage students to isolate each sense and focus on it. For example, tell them to close their eyes and listen attentively, first to sounds in the room, then sounds in the hallway. Finally, have them send their hearing out as far as it will go. Ask them to share what they have heard.

A similar exercise can be done with sight. Ask them to look around the room, noticing colors and shapes. Ask them to see each object and then have each object see them. Turn to a partner and see the partner and have each partner see them. Ask students if they can tell the difference between being seen and being the see-er and what each feels like. To practice heightening the sense of touch, you can pass around a paper bag with an object in it. Have each student feel and describe it without the sense of sight. Students can be encouraged to experiment with smell and taste in the lunchroom and at home.

Teacher's Guide to Creative Drama

Acting Excercises for Kids!



Movement: A Mirror Exercise



To help students focus, lead the class in a simple "follow the movement" exercise to slow, pleasant music. Make simple movements with your arms, head, face and legs. Encourage students to mirror these movements at the same time you are making them. Then, if you can arrange students in a circle, choose one student to leave the room and one student to lead the class in simple slow movements. The student chosen to leave is now invited back to try to guess who is the leader.

A more advanced version of this exercise involves grouping students in pairs and having them mirror each other. Music can be really helpful. Remind students that the face moves too and that laughter and giggling can be mirrored, too!

Sound Effects

Sound Effects Story: Pick a simple story that has many opportunities for added sound effects (for example, stories in cities, bad weather, haunted houses, etc.). This story can be made up in advance, improvised on-the-spot or read from a book. Practice with the group, encouraging students to make the sound of the wind using their voices, doors slamming using their feet, etc. Then control the volume of the sound using a wand, a pencil or any conductor like object. When your hand is high, the sound is loud, when your hand is lowered the sound diminishes and then stops. Use this volume control tool throughout the story.



Do Try This At Home



After the performance, try these activities and experiments with your friends and family.

Simple Machines

Six simple machines make work easier for us. These six machines are the **wheel and axle, inclined plane, lever, wedge, screw and pulley**. Doktor Kaboom uses a lever (and fulcrum) to make a banana catapult. Can you name the types of simple machine shown in these pictures?

A.  _____

B.  _____

C.  _____

D.  _____

E.  _____

F.  _____

The Homemade Volcano

With the help of a parent, look up and follow the recipe for a baking soda and vinegar volcano. If you do it right: ***ka-boom!***



Experiments with Doktor Kaboom



In one of the first demonstrations in ***Look Out, Science is Coming!***, **Doktor Kaboom** introduces the concept of air pressure. Also known as atmospheric pressure, air pressure measures the force exerted by the weight of air molecules. Although air pressure is different at various elevations — the higher you go, the lower the pressure — or due to changes in atmospheric conditions, the air pressure on an object is generally accepted as 14.7 pounds of pressure per square inch. Air pressure is not just a downward force, but it completely surrounds us.

Here are several activities that you can do with your students to continue to explore air pressure. The final activity (You're Full of Hot Air) works best when set up as a demonstration as there is a bit of a trick involved.

Grudge Match: Air vs Water

In this simple, but really amazing, activity, your students pit air pressure against water weight. They will love astounding their families with this activity when they get home.

Materials:

- Small glass or cup
- Index card
- Water
- Sink or tub

Fill the glass about one third full of water. Completely cover the mouth of the glass with the index card. While holding the card over the mouth, quickly turn the glass upside down. Remove your hand from the card. You students will be thrilled to see that the card remains in place, holding the water in the glass. It is best to do this activity over a sink or tub, just in case!

The reason the activity works is that the weight of the water is less than the pressure of the air. The downward push of the water is about one pound and is greatly overwhelmed by the superior 14.7 pound upward-push of the air pressure. This is a good activity to illustrate that air pressure completely surrounds us.

Warning: It doesn't take too long for the paper card to become saturated with water and lose its structural integrity. When that happens, look out — hence the sink or tub.

Experiments with Doktor Kaboom



Old Faithful

This is another activity that is best done in a sink or tub. Outside would be good, too.

Materials:

- Two-liter soda bottle
- Water
- Straw
- Lump of Clay

Fill the bottle about half-full of water. Insert the straw into the mouth of the bottle. While holding the straw so it sticks a short distance outside of the bottle, wrap the clay around the straw so it forms a seal at the bottle's mouth. Place the bottle in the tub or sink. Blow hard into the straw and then stand back. Thar she blows!

When you blow into the straw it increases the air pressure inside the sealed bottle. The higher pressure forces the water to shoot up and out of the straw.

Please note: This activity does not replicate the way geysers like Old Faithful work. Geo-thermal activity creates the pressure that causes geysers to erupt. "Old Faithful" is just a catchy name for the activity.

Blow Me Down

This Activity is often called "The Million Dollar Bet," and can be set up as a wager with the students.

Materials:

- An empty soda or water bottle
- A piece of paper towel

Form a small ball out of the paper towel. It should be about half the size of the mouth of the bottle. Lay the empty bottle on its side and place the paper towel at the end of the mouth. Challenge a student to blow the ball into the bottle. No matter how hard they blow, they will not be able to blow the ball in. Because the bottle is already full of air, it is not possible to force more air into the bottle. There is no room for the extra air, so it flows right out, pushing away the ball.

Experiments with Doktor Kaboom



You're Full of Hot Air

This demonstration is a trick! A little secret preparation is needed.

Materials:

- 2 plastic water or soda bottles of the same size
- 2+ balloons
- Push pin or tack

Out of sight, make an 1/8 inch hole in the bottom of one of the bottles. Give a balloon and a bottle to each of two volunteers. Instruct them to feed most of their balloon into the bottle. Next, they should stretch the opening of their balloon over the edge of the mouth of the bottle. Challenge them to see which student can blow up their balloon the fastest.

The student that has the bottle with the hole in the bottom will be able to blow up their balloon with little difficulty. The student with the non-holed bottle will not be able to blow up their balloon at all, no matter how hard they try.

Invite a new challenger to try to beat the champ (replacing the balloon, of course).

As the student blows into the balloon, they are moving air into a compressed space to inflate the balloon. In the non-holed bottle, the air is trapped and has nowhere to move. The air pressure is greater in the bottle than in the balloon, preventing the balloon from inflating. In the bottle with the hole, the air in the bottle can be pushed out of the hole allowing the balloon to expand.

Activities for the Classroom

Name: Date:

LIVING OR NOT LIVING?

Color the living things blue and the non living things yellow.



Activities for the Classroom

S	S	N	E	I	N	V	E	N	T	I	O	N	T
N	O	S	T	R	T	B	T	O	B	O	R	Y	E
T	H	I	N	K	C	O	U	S	E	K	N	G	C
N	G	N	I	D	O	C	T	I	O	S	T	S	H
S	T	V	E	N	E	R	G	Y	L	L	E	N	N
T	I	C	S	Y	S	T	E	M	U	D	Y	E	O
E	I	G	N	I	R	E	E	N	I	G	N	E	L
Y	T	I	C	I	R	T	C	E	L	E	C	I	O
N	I	T	H	Y	P	O	T	H	E	S	I	S	G
C	O	N	S	T	R	U	C	T	I	O	N	I	Y
E	E	C	R	E	A	T	E	Y	H	S	H	L	C
I	H	O	E	O	S	S	E	C	O	R	P	O	E
T	N	H	I	I	I	M	A	T	H	S	N	I	T
N	U	T	I	L	Y	E	C	N	E	I	C	S	K

Think
Coding
Create
Robot

Electricity
Technology
Construction
Engineering

Invention
Maths
System
Science

Energy
Process
Build
Hypothesis

Answer key can be found on page 21.

Activities for the Classroom

STEM CHALLENGE DATA & RESULTS

TODAY MY CHALLENGE IS:

WHAT PROBLEM DO I NEED TO SOLVE?

WHAT SUPPLIES WILL I USE?

WHAT IS MY PLAN?

WHAT WORKED FOR ME?

WHAT DID NOT WORK FOR ME ?

Activities for the Classroom

Name: .....

Build a Tent STEM Challenge

Plan, build, and test a small tent. Then improve your design.

Your Challenge

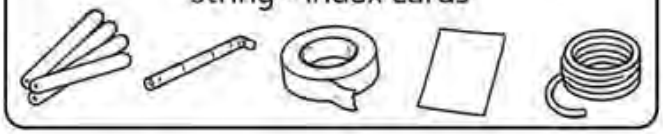
Build a small tent that can stand on its own.

Your tent must:

- ☐ stand on its own
- ☐ have space for a small toy
- ☐ stay up for 10 seconds

Materials You May Use

craft sticks • straws • paper • tape
string • index cards



1. Think

What will make your tent strong?

- ☐ a wide base
- ☐ strong poles
- ☐ tape at the corners
- ☐ another idea: _____

2. Plan

Draw your tent design. Label the materials.

What shape will it be?

3. Build

Build your tent using the materials.

① Make the frame. ② Add the cover. ③ Check the base.





4. Test

Did the tent stand on its own?
☐ Yes ☐ Not yet

Did a small toy fit inside?
☐ Yes ☐ Not yet

Did it stay up for 10 seconds?
☐ Yes ☐ Not yet



5. Improve

What did you change?

- ☐ I added more tape.
- ☐ I made the base wider.
- ☐ I changed the poles.
- ☐ I changed _____.

How Did It Go? Circle one.



It worked!



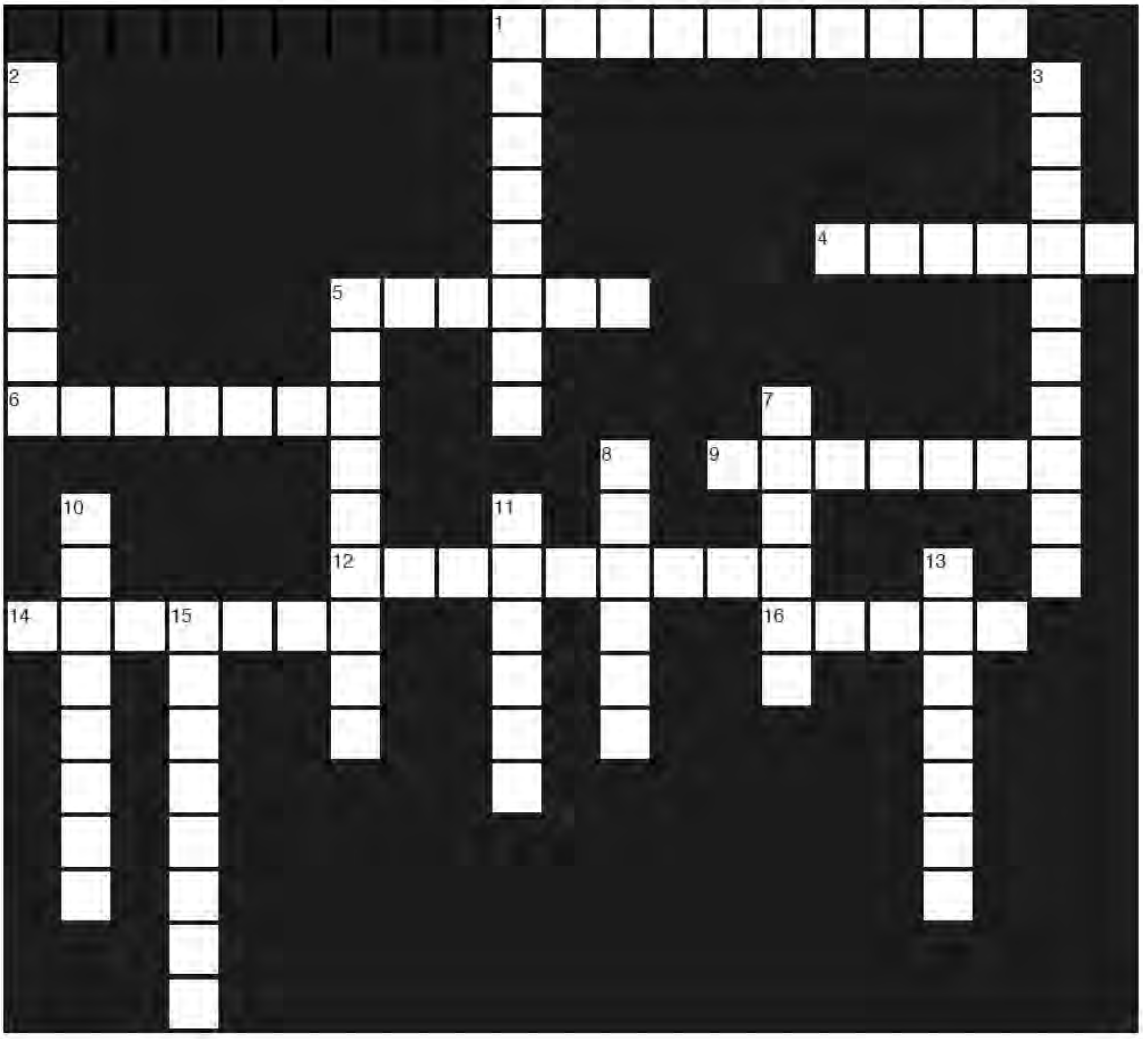
It worked a little.



I will try again.



Activities for the Classroom





ACROSS

1. A test performed to explore a hypothesis
4. Doktor ___! (the character's exclamatory stage name)
5. Genre blended with science in the Doktor's act
6. City David Epley calls home
9. Chrome eyewear that's part of the Doktor's costume
12. A person who studies and experiments in a STEM field
14. Orange garment the Doktor wears over his costume
16. David ___, the actor who created Doktor Kaboom

DOWN

1. STEM professional who designs and builds systems
2. Branch of science studying matter, energy, and motion
3. A testable scientific guess, step one of the scientific method
5. Branch of science studying substances and their reactions
7. ___ generator, a Doktor Kaboom prop once used as a 55-gallon drum
8. Projectile ___, the physics of a launched object's path
10. Chemical ___, a process that transforms substances
11. Nationality of the Doktor's over-the-top accent
13. ___ Center, a Washington D.C. venue that has hosted the show
15. Prop the Doktor claims was invented to feed people, not wage war

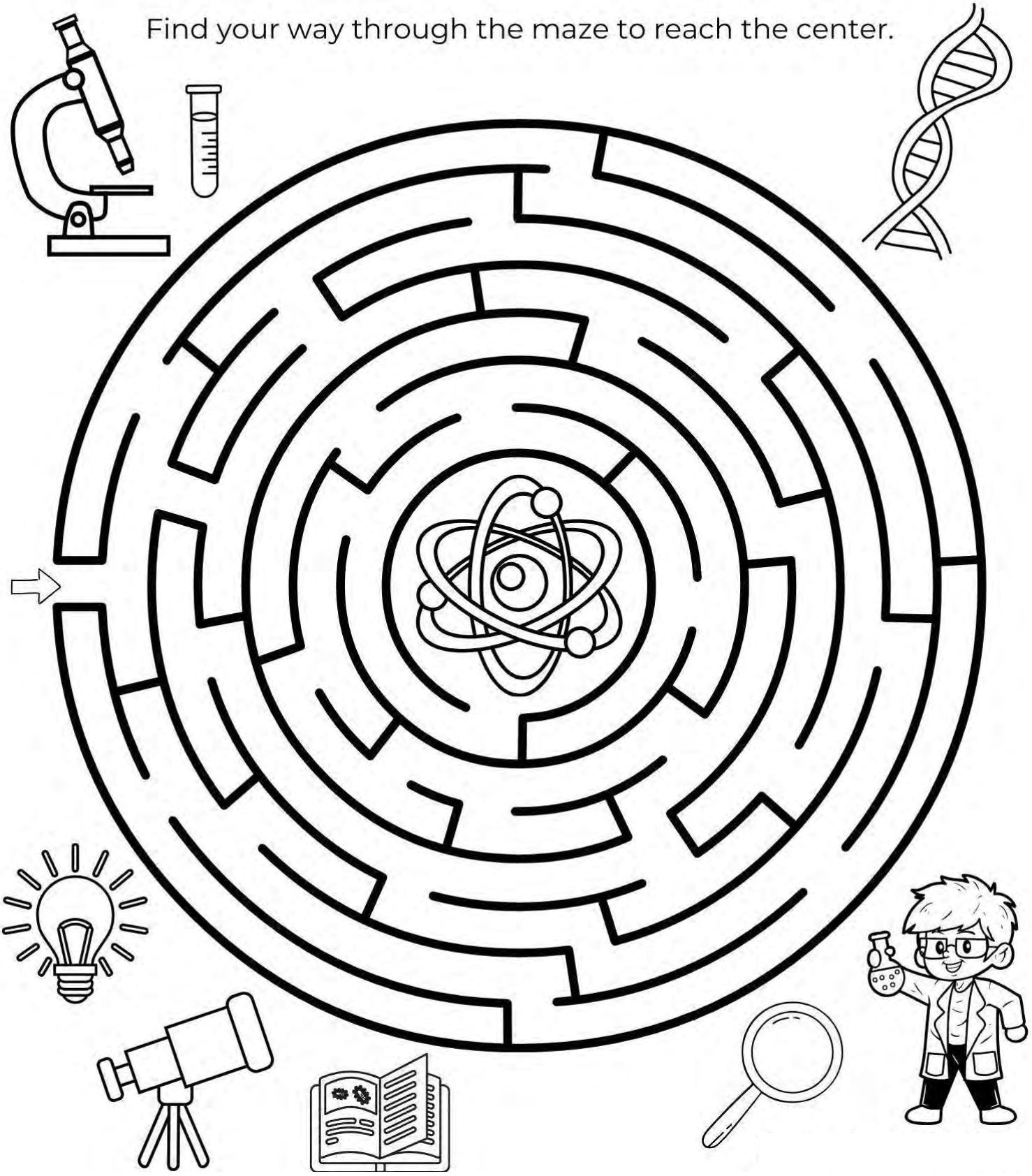


Answer key can be found on page 21.


MondayMandala.com

Science Maze

Find your way through the maze to reach the center.



Doktor Kaboom Activities
Answer Key

S	S	N	E	I	N	V	E	N	T	I	O	N	T
N	O	S	T	R	T	B	T	O	B	O	R	Y	E
T	H	I	N	K	C	O	U	S	E	K	N	G	C
N	G	N	I	D	O	C	T	I	O	S	T	S	H
S	T	V	E	N	E	R	G	Y	L	L	E	N	N
T	I	C	S	Y	S	T	E	M	U	D	Y	E	O
E	I	G	N	I	R	E	E	N	I	G	N	E	L
Y	T	I	C	I	R	T	C	E	L	E	C	I	O
N	I	T	H	Y	P	O	T	H	E	S	I	S	G
C	O	N	S	T	R	U	C	T	I	O	N	I	Y
E	E	C	R	E	A	T	E	Y	H	S	H	L	C
I	H	O	E	O	S	S	E	C	O	R	P	O	E
T	N	H	I	I	I	M	A	T	H	S	N	I	T
N	U	T	I	L	Y	E	C	N	E	I	C	S	K



A.  Inclined Plane

D.  Screw

B.  Lever

E.  Pulley

C.  Wedge

F.  Wheel and axle



								1 E	X	P	E	R	I	M	E	N	T		
2 P								N									3 H		
H								G									Y		
Y								I									P		
S								N						4 K	A	B	O	O	M
I					5 C	O	M	E	D	Y							T		
C					H			E									H		
6 S	E	A	T	T	L	E		R				7 V					E		
					M					8 M		9 G	O	G	G	L	E	S	
	10 R				I			11 G		O		R					I		
	E				12 S	C	I	E	N	T	I	S	T			13 K		S	
14 L	A	B	15 C	O	A	T		R		I			16 E	P	L	E	Y		
	C		A			R		M		O			X			N			
	T		T			Y		A		N						N			
	I		A					N								E			
	O		P													D			
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			L																
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Theater Etiquette and Expectations

We have a wonderful opportunity at this performance to help youth learn about attending live performances.

Please discuss the following with your students:

1. Sometimes young people do not realize how a live performance differs from watching a movie or television show. A live presentation has not been pre-recorded with the mistakes edited out. This makes it riskier for the performer and more exciting for the audience. It also means the audience has a real contribution to make to the overall event. Each audience member affects those around him/her as well as the performer. Concentrate to help the performers. The audience gives energy to the performer who uses that energy to give life to the performance.
2. An usher will show you where to sit. Walk slowly and talk quietly as you enter the theater.
3. For safety's sake, do not lean over or sit on the balcony railings or box ledges. Please be careful on the stairs. Avoid horseplay and running throughout the building.
4. If necessary, use the restroom before the performance begins. Adults need to accompany young students. After the show, we need you to exit the building right away because of bus schedules and other shows.
5. You may talk quietly to the people next to you until the performance begins.
6. When the lights in the theater begin to dim, it is the signal that the performance is about to start. Stop talking and turn your attention to the stage.
7. Stay in your seat throughout the entire performance.
8. During the performance, listen quietly and watch closely. Talking during the performance will distract other audience members and performers. Try not to wiggle too much and don't kick the seat in front of you. These disruptions make it hard for others around you to concentrate on the show. Sometimes during a performance you may respond by laughing, crying or sighing. By all means feel free to do so! LAUGHING IS APPROPRIATE. (Teachers, please do not hush the students while they are laughing.) If something is funny, it's good to laugh.
9. If you like something a lot, applaud. This will let the performers know that you are enjoying the show.
10. At the end of the show, applaud to say thank you to the performers. The performers will bow to acknowledge your appreciation and thank you for coming.
11. When the lights get brighter in the theater, the show is over. Stay in your seats until the OnStage Coordinator dismisses your school.
12. Please remember:
    - Taking photographs or using recording devices is strictly prohibited.
    - Beverages and food, including gum and candy, are not allowed in the theater.
    - You are only one person among several hundred in the audience.
    - Please respect the performers and your fellow audience members.

Cell phone use is prohibited. The light from your screens may distract the people around you.

Thank you for choosing Alaska Junior Theater!

Tell us what you think!

Take a quick survey about the show using this link or scan the QR Code:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NF25P6G