

The Hits Keep on Coming!

Use these activity ideas to extend your study of the 60's during your **Hairspray LIVE!** 60's Day or to supplement the lessons outlined in the activity sheets.

Embracing Differences

Just before she sings "Welcome to the 60's," Tracy tells her mother, Edna, "People who are different, their time is coming." Tracy's words of encouragement not only help inspire Edna to overcome her insecurity about appearing in public, but they also express an important theme of **Hairspray LIVE!** Use this line of dialogue as a prompt to have students write a one-page profile describing how they are different and what makes them unique.

Sounds of the 60's

Dozens of songs from the 60's are still part of pop culture today. Use a music streaming app or search Youtube to see which of these iconic 60's tunes your students can identify by title or by the name of the band that made the song famous: Little Eva, "Locomotion" (1962); The Ronettes, "Be My Baby" (1963); The Beatles, "She Loves You" (1964); Simon and Garfunkel, "The Sounds of Silence" (1964); The Rolling Stones, "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" (1965); The Who, "My Generation" (1965); Bob Dylan, "Mr. Tambourine Man" (1965); The Temptations, "My Girl" (1965); The Beach Boys, "Good Vibrations" (1966); James Brown, "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag" (1966); Aretha Franklin, "Respect" (1967); Jefferson Airplane, "Somebody to Love" (1967); Jimi Hendrix, "Purple Haze" (1967); The Doors, "Light My Fire" (1967); Marvin Gaye, "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" (1968). For an added challenge, mix in some songs from the 1970's to see if students can tell the difference: for example, Carole King, "I Feel the Earth Move" (1971); Elton John, "Rocket Man" (1972); The Bee Gees, "Stayin' Alive" (1977). Discuss how the sounds and themes of 60's songs compare to popular songs today.

Let's Dance!

As their names reveal, many of the dance steps that became fads in the 60's were based on imitation. The Swim, the Hitch Hike, and the Twist are all simple motions set to a rock-and-roll beat. The Pony, the Monkey, and the Fly turn animal motions into dance steps. Visit ymiclassroom.com/hairspray for videos of these dances and have students compare them to dances popular today, like The Dab, The Wop, and The Shmoney. Then invite students to create their own new imitative steps for today's music. Some ideas for starters: The Texter, The Selfie, or The Video Gamer.

Blast from the Past

The turning-point in **Hairspray LIVE!** comes midway through the musical when Tracy organizes a march to protest the exclusion of African American teens from The Corny Collins Show, except on a monthly "Negro Day." Tracy and her friends wind up in jail, as did many other protesters during the 60's, but local demonstrations like hers played an important part in the Civil Rights Movement. Have students investigate the broad impact of some landmark local protest events such as the **1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott**, which began when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat and move to the back of the bus; the **1960 lunch counter sit-in at Greensboro, North Carolina**, during which four college students sat in the "whites only" section of a lunch counter and refused to leave until they were served; and the **1961 Freedom Rides**, when African American and white activists rode buses into the South to protest racial segregation at bus depots.

Resources

ymiclassroom.com/hairspray
nbc.com/hairspray-live
#HairsprayLive

You can't stop the beat!

Hairspray LIVE!

Dove Cameron Kristin Chenoweth Garrett Clayton Harvey Fierstein Ariana Grande Derek Hough
Jennifer Hudson Shahadi Wright Joseph Martin Short Ephraim Sykes and introducing Maddie Baillio as Tracy
special appearances by Billy Eichner Sean Hayes Andrea Martin Rosie O'Donnell

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