

NEW VICTORY

THEATER

NEW VICTORY® SCHOOL TOOL®

RESOURCE GUIDE

RIDDLE

OF THE

TRILOBITES



2019-20 SEASON

THE NEW VICTORY® THEATER

New York's Theater for Kids and Families

POWERED BY NEW 42

# NEW VICTORY EDUCATION

209 W 42nd Street, New York, NY 10036 • Education@NewVictory.org | 646.223.3090

New Victory opens new worlds to young people and families through extraordinary performances, education and engagement programs. Bringing kids to the arts and the arts to kids since 1995, this nonprofit theater has become a standard-bearer of quality performing arts for young audiences in the United States. Featuring artistic disciplines and traditions from a multitude of cultures, New Victory presents theatrical stories and experiences that spark the imagination and broaden our understanding of the world and our place in it.

New Victory provides more kids in more grades with more live performing arts than any other cultural organization in the city. Every year, NEW VICTORY Education makes it possible for 40,000 kids to attend student matinees and see New Victory shows for little to no cost. In schools across the city, New Victory pairs these visits with free, arts-based classroom workshops and residencies, and offers artistic professional development to educators who want to incorporate the arts into their daily curriculum.

New Victory is committed to arts access for all communities of New York to experience and engage with the exemplary international shows on its stages. The nonprofit is celebrated for programs including Victory Dance, which provides free dance performances and education to NYC summer schools; SPARK, a multi-year program to infuse arts-deprived school communities with live performing arts and arts education; and GIVE, a new initiative to address equitable student engagement in inclusion classrooms.

## NEW VICTORY SCHOOL TOOL Resource Guides

Available to School Partners for every show in our season, NEW VICTORY SCHOOL TOOL Resource Guides are designed for educators to explore the artistry and key themes of each production.

Filled with practical, engaging and ready-to-implement activities that allow any teacher to incorporate New Victory into their classroom, NEW VICTORY SCHOOL TOOLS are designed to enrich the performance experience before, during and after the students' trip to the theater.

## JOBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Discover the New 42 Youth Corps, a youth development initiative that pairs life skills training with jobs in the arts for high school and college students. The Youth Corps is composed of four different tracks to meet students where they are academically and professionally, and to serve New York City with a diverse, creative pipeline of young talent.

### NEW VICTORY Usher Corps

At New Victory, students ages 16-19 can apply to join the Usher Corps, a rigorous three-year program that offers:

- Live theater from around the world
- Job training and workshops
- A supportive team of young adults from across the city
- Hands-on work with kids and families in a friendly, fast-paced environment
- Personal and professional growth

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NEW VICTORY SCHOOL TOOL® Resource Guides are made possible by a generous gift in memory of Fr. John R. Scarangelo, OFM whose lifelong passion for the theater was a powerful influence on all who were fortunate to know and love him.



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# OUR GUIDING PILLARS

*Want to know what guides the work we do in NEW VICTORY Education?*

*The Guiding Pillars on this page are the foundation of how we strive  
to cultivate collaboration and creativity for everyone!*

## ARTS FOR ALL

How is the work accessible to and inclusive of everyone?

## ART FORM

How are we honoring and exploring the technique of the art forms presented on our stage?

## COMMUNITY

How are we encouraging ensemble and collaboration within the communities we work with?

## CREATE

How can we activate art-making and creativity to explore the art form in each production?

## DISCOVERY

What methods are we employing? What questions are we asking to encourage opportunities for meaning-making, deepening understanding, inquiry, curiosity, risk-taking and learning about oneself, one's peers and the world around us?

## PLAY

How is the work sparking imagination, encouraging joy in learning and evoking laughter?

# LEARNING STANDARDS

New Victory Theater is excited to provide educators and students with this 2019-20 School Tool Resource Guide! The activities, creativity pages and reflection tools included in this guide will allow everyone to engage with a variety of art forms and themes that you will see on stage at the New Victory. All activities and creativity pages can be directly connected to the Next Generation Learning Standards, the *Blueprint* Strands for Teaching and Learning and New York State Standards in the Arts. Have fun exploring and we'll see you at the theater!

## NEXT GENERATION LEARNING STANDARDS:

Reading: 1; 2; 3

Writing: 2; 3

Speaking and Listening: 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6

Language: 1; 2; 3

## NEW YORK STATE LEARNING STANDARDS FOR THE ARTS:

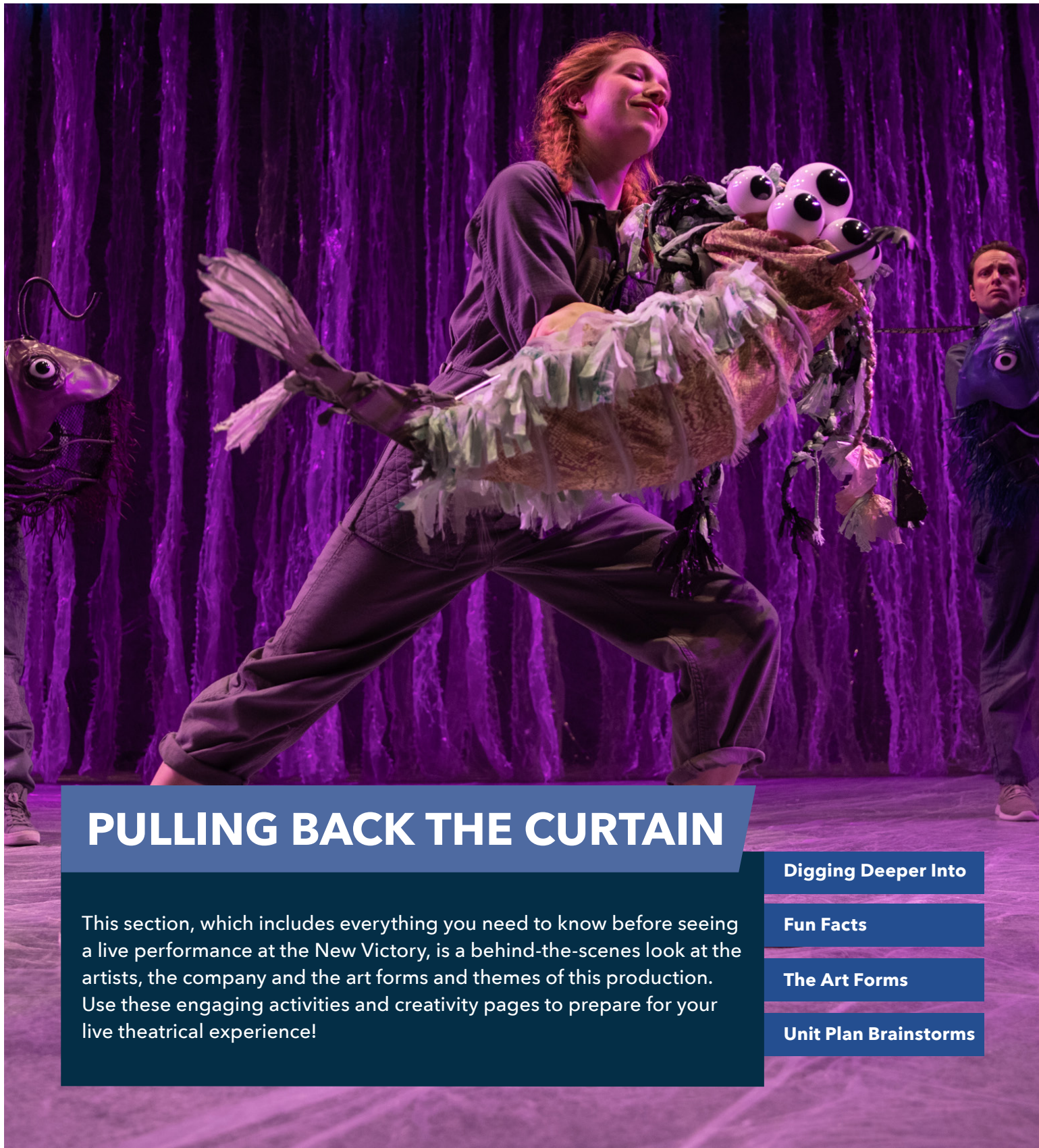
Creating, Performing, Responding, Connecting

## BLUEPRINT FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING IN THE ARTS:

Theater Making, Developing Theater Literacy, Making Connections

Art Making, Developing Art Literacy, Making Connections





## PULLING BACK THE CURTAIN

This section, which includes everything you need to know before seeing a live performance at the New Victory, is a behind-the-scenes look at the artists, the company and the art forms and themes of this production. Use these engaging activities and creativity pages to prepare for your live theatrical experience!

[Digging Deeper Into](#)

[Fun Facts](#)

[The Art Forms](#)

[Unit Plan Brainstorms](#)

# RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES

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# Digging Deeper

Travel way way way way way back in time! In this live, original musical, set 500 million years ago, all life dwells in one sea and trilobites rule the ocean floor. When young Aphra discovers that the fate of the entire trilobite kingdom rests on her shelled shoulders, she and her arthropod pals must solve the RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES before a sea change of epic proportions destroys their home. With humor, heart and eye-popping prehistoric puppetry, this underwater adventure shows us how we can leave our mark on the world when we dare to be brave.



COLLABORATION  
TOWN

## Digging Deeper into CollaborationTown

CollaborationTown is an award-winning NYC downtown theater company that creates ensemble driven, humorous and heartfelt new plays that defy expectations of how stories can be told in theater. Their aim is to maintain a consistent core ensemble which collaborates regularly with an ever-expanding community of artists, and to create new plays that are relevant beyond traditional theater audiences.

Where in the world is  
CollaborationTown from?

NEW YORK



CollaborationTown developed RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES as part of NEW VICTORY LabWorks, which fosters the creation of new work for young audiences, and champions innovative, adventurous performing arts for audiences of all ages.

Puppetry + Musical Theater  
x Community ÷ Change

=

**RIDDLE**  
**OF THE**  
**TRILOBITES**

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[NewVictory.org/SchoolTool](http://NewVictory.org/SchoolTool)

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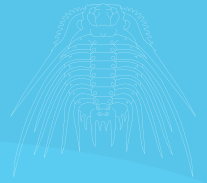
## Fun Facts

1. Trilobites are old! They first appeared **540 million years ago** and quickly became the ancient ocean's most dominant species.



2. A trilobite by any other name...is still probably a trilobite! Scientists estimate that, at the height of the Cambrian period, there were **over 20,000 different species of trilobites** swimming, crawling and burrowing in the ocean.

3. Teamwork makes the theatrical dream work. CollaborationTown, the Company behind RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES, uses collaborative artistic methods to create new plays. This means that all of CollaborationTown's shows were created out of thin air by groups of **artists bringing their skills together** to build a production!



4. Trilobites are now extinct, but they should have seen it coming. For real! They were the **first group of animals to develop complex eyes!**



5. The word trilobite is **Latin for three-part-body!**

6.

School friends can be the best friends and co-creators. Just ask the founders of CollaborationTown! **They were friends from Boston College** who started their theater company together in 2003!



# RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES

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# Connecting to: The Art Forms

## STORYTELLING

RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES has all the recognizable parts of a story: characters, setting and plot! This musical tale is a specific type of story that you've probably seen before—a bildungsroman, or a coming-of-age story. In this particular type of storytelling, an adolescent character grows up and becomes more of an adult because of an experience or experiences they go through. The *Harry Potter* series, *Moana* and *Frozen* are just a few examples of coming-of-age stories. The list is virtually endless!



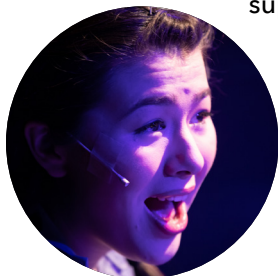
## PUPPETRY

When an object is animated and manipulated by a performer giving the illusion of independent movement, this is known as puppetry! Examples of puppetry include The Muppets, the puppets in "Sesame Street" and the Broadway production of *The Lion King*. There are many kinds of puppets such as marionettes, hand puppets, rod puppets and shadow puppets. RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES performers bring large creature puppets to life by moving them around the space. You'll notice that these performers are sometimes hidden from view, using a combination of puppets and costumes to bring their characters and the underwater environment to life throughout the show!



## MUSICAL THEATER

Musical theater melds acting, live music and dance into one all-encompassing production. Singing conveys a deeper level of emotion, allowing the characters to express themselves beyond dialogue, monologue or soliloquy. The live music in RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES will accompany the performers, help tell the story and support the action in various mediums. Other examples of musical theater are *Hamilton* (stage), *High School Musical* (film) and *The Wiz: Live!* (television).



## What do your students already know?

Prior to exploring *RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES* with your students, find out how much they already know about **PUPPETRY** and **MUSICAL THEATER**. In addition, allow them to explore the themes: **COMMUNITY** and **CHANGE**.

*Have you ever seen a musical theater performance? How did it make you feel?*

*Have you ever seen a puppetry performance?*

*What element(s) of puppetry do you like best? Why?*

*What does the word "community" mean to you?*

*What does the term "change" mean to you?*

*Where do you think you might see "community" or "change" at play in RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES?*

# RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES

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# Burrowing into: Unit Plan Brainstorms

## EXOSKELETON: AN OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCE (SCIENCE, THEATER, VISUAL ART)

Trilobites are known for having exoskeletons, which means that their skeletons are on the outside of their bodies. In contrast, humans have endoskeletons, which are inside of their bodies! Brainstorm a list of living creatures that have exoskeletons.

**Note:** *Some of these include lobsters, shrimp, cockroaches and more!* Ask your students questions like: *What is the function of an exoskeleton? Why do some creatures have them while others do not?* Have the class embark on a research project, putting them in the role of scientific investigator, to see if their original guesses were correct! Thanks to our fossilized friends, the trilobites, scientists have been able to use what they've learned by studying trilobites to improve the lives of humans! Even though humans have endoskeletons, scientists are actually inventing robotic exoskeletons to help with a variety of physical ailments. Have your class brainstorm some possible reasons why these may be helpful. After writing down some ideas, give students the opportunity to construct their own mini-exoskeletons using materials like pipe cleaners, cardboard, string, etc. Finally, have your class research robotic exoskeletons to confirm or disprove their hypotheses. Ask them to consider: *How are the devices we found different from what I anticipated? How are they similar?* Throughout the year, keep an eye on the development of robotic exoskeletons!

**To support this unit, use the Activity *I'll Stop the World and Molt with You!* in the After the Show section.**

## YOUR OWN FOSSIL STORY (SCIENCE, THEATER)

In RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES, prehistoric fossils come to life! Now, give your class the chance to do the same! First, take your students on an adventure to see the American Museum of Natural History's (AMNH) incredibly vast fossil collection. Give students ample time to explore and identify a specific fossil they'd like to bring to life by writing from its perspective! Either back at school or at the museum, have each individual write a monologue from the perspective of their chosen fossil. To guide them in this exploration, ask questions like: *What is my scientific name? What is the name my friends and family call me? What did the world look like when I was alive? How did I get to where I am today? What is my story?* Encourage your students to research their fossil beyond what they learn at the AMNH. They should use the science to support their work, but can also be creative with their storytelling! After everyone has had the chance to write their monologue, have students share in pairs. Finally, provide the opportunity for volunteers to share their work with the class!

**To support this unit, use the Activity *The Trilobites: An Origin Story* in the Before the Show section.**

## SIX MASS EXTINCTIONS (SCIENCE, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS)

Earth has witnessed five mass extinctions throughout its vast history—End Ordovician, Late Devonian, End Permian, End Triassic and End Cretaceous. Today, environmental scientists overwhelmingly agree that, due in large part to human activity and population growth, our world is at a tipping point and could become a dangerous place to live within the next century. Could it be that the current biodiversity crisis is the start of a sixth mass extinction? Data shows that the earth is losing species at an alarming rate and that, in the next three centuries, between 100-500 thousand species of insects will go extinct. The lower number in that estimate represents a high loss of biodiversity, while the higher end of that estimate is comparable to the magnitude of the loss of species during the previous mass extinctions. In small groups, have your class embark on a research project to learn more about the many causes of the five mass extinctions. Guide this research by asking questions like: *What were the common factors of each previous mass extinction? What could have been done to prevent those extinctions? In what ways are today's biodiversity crises related to past extinctions? What can we do to prevent the extinction of earth's species and resources?* Have each group use their findings—and their imagination—to think and hypothesize about the future. *What will the world look like in 500 million years? Who or what will be here?* Then, have each group present their findings and their hypotheses in the form of a visual art piece, scene or song!

**To support this unit, use the Activity:  
*Heal the World: A Call to Action* in the  
Before the Show section.**

# RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES

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## BEFORE THE SHOW

In this section, you'll find ready-to-implement teacher-led classroom activities and student centered creativity pages which allow educators and kids to explore the themes and artistry of the show!

**Burrowing into the Plot**

**Handout: Creatures and Characters**

**Activity: An Origin Story**

**Creativity Page:  
Heal the World:  
A Call to Action**

# RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES

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# RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES: A Synopsis



## BURROWING INTO THE PLOT

This musical tale begins in Panthalassa, the one great, giant sea from hundreds of millions of years ago! It's molting day, the day the trilobites have been waiting for. It's been prophesized that on this day, a young trilobite will shed their exoskeleton for the first time to reveal special markings indicating that they are destined to save the trilobite tribe!

Aphra, a young trilobite, talks with her grandma Galla about being nervous to molt. To our protagonist, change is really scary! Aphra and her best friend, Judomiah, begin to shed their outsides to reveal that Aphra has some very interesting marks. Just then, a shadow of an unknown creature passes over the molting festival. The adventure-loving Aphra (and very hesitant Judomiah) can't help but follow it. All of a sudden, the two stumble upon a creature they've never seen before... a fish! They decide to bring their new friend, Hai, back home, but Hai is quickly locked up by the Trilobite Elders.

The Elders reveal to Aphra that her markings mean she must solve the Riddle of the Trilobites: *when the ocean changes, the trilobites cannot live but will not die*. No one has ever been able to solve it before, including all of the Elders, for millions of years! Aphra will have to go to the Southern Reef to solve the riddle, where many creatures, including Aphra's parents, have disappeared or died.

After setting Hai free, Aphra and Judomiah set off to get advice from Calliope the opabina. The group decides to meet with Calliope's mad scientist Aunt Tonka and her lab assistant Vanya, who explain that the ocean is changing. Aphra needs to solve the riddle, and fast! Aphra and Judomiah need advice from Isotelus Rex, the oldest, wisest trilobite, about how to get to the Southern Reef safely. Along the way, Aphra will face a series of challenges in her attempt to fulfill her destiny as the trilobite with the special markings.

*Will Aphra make it out of the Southern Reef alive? Will she be able to solve the riddle of the ancients? If so, what will that mean for the future of her tribe? You'll just have to watch to find out!*



# RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES

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**Teacher's Note:** Print both of these pages to familiarize your students with the characters—and their real-life counterparts—they'll see on stage!

# CREATURES AND CHARACTERS

In **RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES**, you'll see lots of creatures you may have never seen before! Learn about some of these characters before you go:

**TRILOBITES:** Trilobites are arthropods, an animal with a hard outer shell, like a crab, with three distinctive parts that connect. They range in size from a millimeter to over two feet long! They lived 500 million years ago and are now extinct.



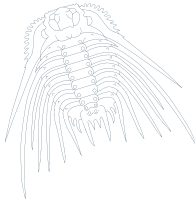
**TRILOBITE**

**APHRA** is our adolescent protagonist! She's a little scared of change, but ultimately must take on the challenge of solving the **RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES**.



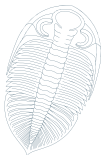
**TRILOBITE**

**JUDOMIAH** is Aphra's best friend. He'll accompany Aphra on her quest!



**TRILOBITES**

**THE ELDERS** are a council of trilobites who make important decisions. One of them is Aphra's grandma!



**TRILOBITE**

**ISOTELUS REX** is known as the oldest and wisest trilobite.

# RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES

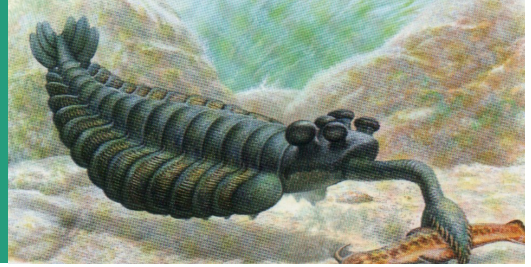
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## BEFORE THE SHOW: Handouts

**OPABINIA:** These hundreds of millions of years old creatures had five eyes! Using their ultra-flexible, clawed arm attached to their heads, they caught and feasted on their prey.



### OPABINIA

**CALLIOPE** is one of Aphra and Judomiah's friends that they can turn to for help.

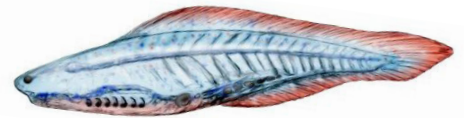


### OPABINIA

**AUNT TONKA** is one of Calliope's relatives who works as a mad scientist, discovering how the ocean is changing!



**HAIKOUICHTHYS:** These creatures are known as the first fish of the sea! Before the Cambrian period, there hadn't been creatures with endoskeletons (skeletons inside their bodies), so the development of fish was a big deal.

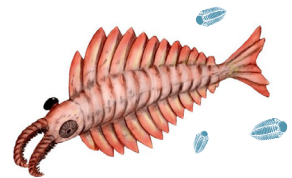


### HAIKOUICHTHYS

**HAI** is a haikouichthys that befriends Aphra and Judomiah after they realize that even though he is different, he's nice!



**ANOMALOCARIS:** Trilobites have to watch their shells when these fearsome, giant shrimp-like creatures come around! Their mouths, lined with hooks, were just starving to trap their delicious prehistoric prey.



# RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES

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# THE TRILOBITES: AN ORIGIN STORY

RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES is told through both mask and puppetry.

Have your students explore what it means to create their very own trilobite puppet, complete with an exoskeleton!

1. To begin, come to a standing circle and show students pictures or artistic depictions of trilobites. Then, ask your students questions like: *If you had your very own trilobite, what would it look like? What would its name be? How would you take care of it?*
2. Present your class with open-ended materials like construction paper, cardstock, biodegradable trash bags, chopsticks, pipe cleaners and pompoms and tell them they're going to become puppet creators!
3. Then, have each student create their own unique trilobite pet. **Note:** Remind students that trilobites are arthropods, which means they have a hard exterior with three distinctive connected parts. Trilobites range in size, so, students can feel free to use their imagination when creating their prehistoric creature!
4. Next, tell your students that, recalling answers from **Step 1**, they are going to create an origin story for their trilobite. Ask students questions like: *Where did your creature come from? If it has a family, what are they like? Where and with whom does your trilobite live? What special abilities does your trilobite have? What are their hopes and dreams? What do they hope to accomplish in their lifetime?*
5. Have students write this origin story, in the form of a monologue, from the perspective of their trilobite.
6. Finally, in a standing circle and with trilobite puppets in hand, have volunteers share out their monologue to the rest of the class!

### Reflection Questions:

*What was your favorite part of this activity?*

*What did you find challenging about this activity?*

*What was it like to create your own trilobite?*

*What was it like to learn about your classmates' creatures?*

*What surprised you about this activity?*



# RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES

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# HEAL THE WORLD: A CALL TO ACTION

Trilobites went extinct about 250 million years ago during an event known as The Great Dying. Today, species are going extinct at an alarming rate in large part because of human encroachment on the planet's animals, their homes and the planet's ecosystems. What can you do to help? What ways can you practice being kinder and more mindful when it comes to our planet and all of its inhabitants?

Use the space below to write a letter to an organization committed to helping save endangered species and the planet—such as the Wildlife Conservation Society and Friends of the Earth—telling them how you feel about the work they're doing and asking them what you can do to help! You could even write a letter to your local politician or advocacy group explaining why saving endangered species and the planet is important to you!

SAVE THE  
ANIMALS

BE KIND  
TO MOTHER  
EARTH

**RIDDLE  
OF THE  
TRILOBITES**

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## AT HOME

Print this section and send it home with your students' permission slips. This section includes engaging activities for the whole family that will help build anticipation for seeing a live performance and help to reflect on the experience of seeing a show!

Resource for Families

Family Fun Facts/  
FUN FACTivity!

# RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES

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# AT HOME: Resource For Families

BE A PART OF YOUR KID'S FIELD TRIP!

## WATCH

Check out the video trailer and a message from RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES at [www.NewVictory.org](http://www.NewVictory.org)

While you're there, do the suggested Family Activities to learn more about the show!

## ASK

### Ask your kid BEFORE the show:

*What do you think musical theater is?*

*How do you think the performers discovered their talent for puppetry and performing?*

*What are you most excited about for your trip to the New Victory Theater?*



### Ask your kid AFTER the show:

*What was your favorite part of the show?*

*How would you describe musical theater?*

*What was it like to see a story told using puppetry?*

*Did anything about the show surprise you?*

## VISIT

### Experience New Victory with your kid!

The New Victory is New York City's only performing arts theater exclusively devoted to kids, their families and classmates, bringing exhilarating stories, innovative art forms and unparalleled performers from around the world to its historic stage in Times Square.

**Use code ST1920 and save 20% on full price tickets.**

This offer is valid for all shows in the 2019-20 season, excluding performances on Nov 29 - Dec 1, 2019 and Dec 26, 2019 - Jan 1, 2020. Limit 8 tickets per order.

For a full list of shows in the New Victory 2019-20 season, visit [NewVictory.org](http://NewVictory.org).

#### ONLINE

Visit [NewVictory.org](http://NewVictory.org) and enter promo code **ST1920**

#### PHONE

Call 646.223.3010 and mention code **ST1920**

#### IN PERSON

Visit the New Victory box office and mention code **ST1920**

209 W 42nd Street, NYC (between 7th & 8th Aves)

Box office hours: Sunday - Monday: 11am-5pm;

Tuesday - Saturday: 12pm-7pm

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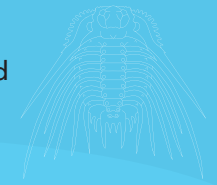
# AT HOME: Family Fun Facts

Check out these fun facts so you can swim over to the next page and turn them into a FUN FACTivity!

1. Trilobites are old! They first appeared **540 million years ago** and quickly became the ancient ocean's most dominant species.



2. A trilobite by any other name...is still probably a trilobite! Scientists estimate that, at the height of the Cambrian period, there were **over 20,000 different species of trilobites** swimming, crawling and burrowing in the ocean.



3. Teamwork makes the theatrical dream work. CollaborationTown, the Company behind RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES, uses collaborative artistic methods to create new plays. This means that all of CollaborationTown's shows were created out of thin air by groups of **artists bringing their skills together** to build a production!

4. Trilobites are now extinct, but they should have seen it coming. For real! They were the **first group of animals to develop complex eyes!**



5. The word trilobite is **Latin for three-part-body!**

6. School friends can be the best friends and co-creators. Just ask the founders of CollaborationTown! **They were friends from Boston College** who started their theater company together in 2003!



Swim, Crawl or Burrow over to the next page for a FUN FACTivity! (You're gonna use your brain, it's gonna be awesome!)

## RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES

NEW VICTORY® THEATER

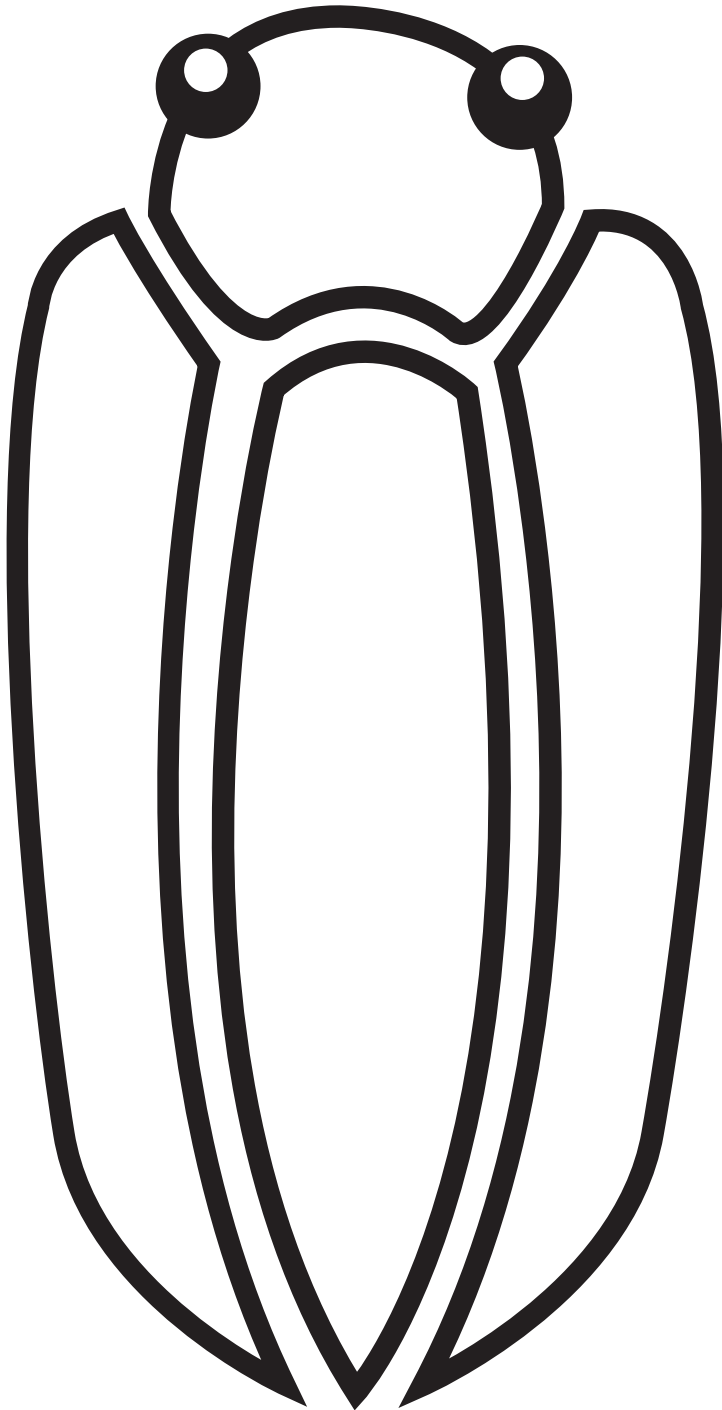
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# NAME THAT TRILOBITE

At the height of their dominance, there were over 20,000 different types of trilobites. They lived all over the globe from Asia to the United States to Eastern Europe. Some could swim, some burrowed and some crawled on the ocean floor. There were predator trilobites and scavenger trilobites. The point is, there were a lot of different types of trilobites. One scientist who discovered a new trilobite species named it Han Solo because the scientist was a big fan of *Star Wars*. Now it is your turn! Name your own species of trilobite and then list its qualities! What does it eat? What part of the world does it live in? How does it move? What else?

Fill in the lines below with your trilobite's details and then decorate the trilobite outline next to it!



### WHAT I EAT:

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### WHERE I LIVE:

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### HOW I MOVE:

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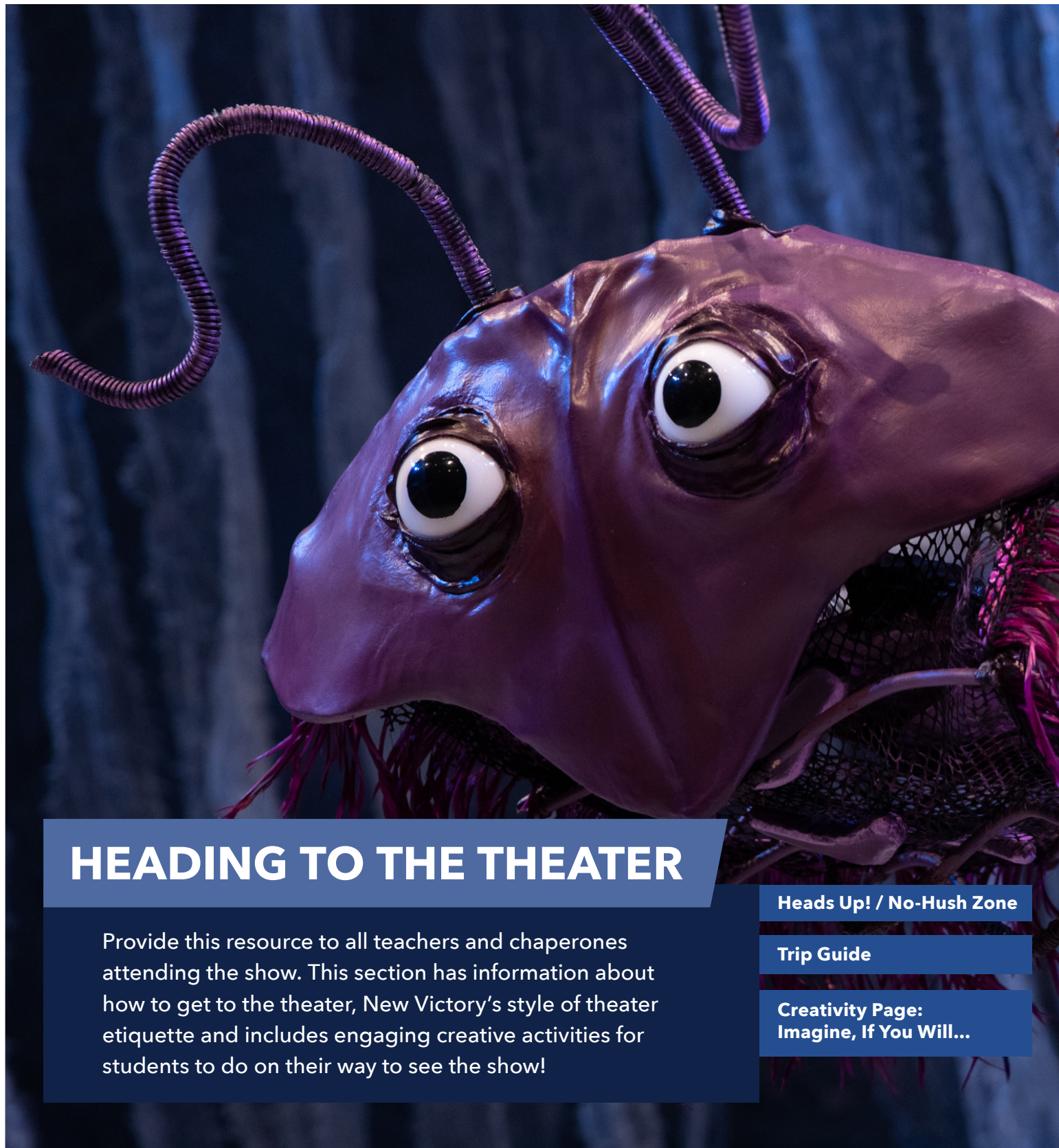
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**RIDDLE  
OF THE  
TRILOBITES**

**NEW VICTORY® THEATER**

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## HEADING TO THE THEATER

Provide this resource to all teachers and chaperones attending the show. This section has information about how to get to the theater, New Victory's style of theater etiquette and includes engaging creative activities for students to do on their way to see the show!

**Heads Up! / No-Hush Zone**

**Trip Guide**

**Creativity Page:  
Imagine, If You Will...**

# RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES

**NEW VICTORY® THEATER**

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# Heads Up!

RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES is a musical undersea adventure told through singing, dancing, puppetry and exciting scenic and lighting design! The production is full of lots of prehistoric creatures with hard-to-pronounce names. Before you and your students hear and see them on stage, get to know these creatures by using the **Characters and Creatures** page in the **Before the Show** section of this School Tool. Please note, for those with sensitivities, that this production includes moments of near-darkness, flashing lights and loud sounds.



OOOOOOOOHHHHHHHHHHH!

## NO-HUSH ZONE: OOHS, AAHS AND APPLAUSE

Thank you for being our partner and making the performing arts a priority for your students! The New Victory prides itself on presenting performing arts that make kids (and adults) exclaim, dance, scream, laugh and giggle! We love when kids vocally and physically respond to what they're seeing on stage. In fact, many of the visiting artists tell us that their favorite part of performing at the New Victory is the real-time, honest reactions from the kids in the audience. Therefore, we ask you and your fellow teachers to help us by making the New Victory a "no-hush zone." Of course, we ask for your help in managing respectful behavior to avoid distractions that are not directly related to the action on stage. Additionally, please ensure your students follow the directions of the NEW VICTORY Ushers and other theater guidelines such as no electronic devices or eating and drinking in the theater.



AAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHH!

# RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES

NEW VICTORY® THEATER

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## Before you leave school

Bags will be collected by NEW VICTORY staff and stored during the performance when you arrive. We advise you to **leave all bags and lunches at school** if possible.

Plan to arrive at the NEW VICTORY venue at least 30 - 45 minutes before curtain time. The Building opens one hour prior to curtain (i.e. 10am for an 11am performance). If you realize that your group is running late, please contact the theater DIRECTLY at **646.223.3020**. If you will be arriving by bus, ensure that your driver drops your group off on the north side of 42nd Street between 7th and 8th Avenues.

## Arrival

When you reach 42nd Street, a member of the NEW VICTORY Front of House staff wearing a green vest will check in with the School Trip Leader.

If you arrive by bus, they will direct your bus to a location on the street where it is safest to unload the students. It is important to wait until our staff checks in the School Trip Leader and Bus Driver before unloading the students. Our staff member will record the bus number and give the School Trip Leader and the Bus Driver correlating tags. If you are unable to be dropped off in front of the theater please record the bus number for our Front of House staff. Please remember to have the School Trip Leader and the Bus Driver exchange cell numbers. The Front of House staff will give a time for the bus to return to pick up your school group. If you are arriving by subway or other public transportation, please form a line outside the theater when you arrive and wait to check in with a Front of House Staff member before entering the theater.

## The question of lunch

NEW VICTORY venues are not equipped to host lunch/ snacks. In the early autumn and spring months, nearby Bryant Park (42nd Street at 6th Avenue) offers a pleasant place for lunching, and there are also public restroom facilities.

## Seating

In order to make your experience at the theater as efficient and safe as possible, you will not be issued tickets. NEW VICTORY Education staff carefully assign seats in advance of each performance, factoring in grade, group size and special circumstances. We are not able to honor specific seating requests with the exception of requests required for accessibility. We ask that your group remain seated after the show. As soon as we are able to escort you to your bus or the subway, an usher will come to you. If you have any questions, please contact the Education Department at: [Education\\_Tickets@NewVictory.org](mailto:Education_Tickets@NewVictory.org).

## Accessibility

**Wheelchair Accessibility:** Wheelchair seating must be requested in advance, at the time of the ticket reservation, and is subject to availability.

**Assistive Listening Devices:** Assistive listening devices are available for patrons who have hearing impairments. We suggest you request this service in advance.

**Sign Interpretation and Audio Description:** A sign interpreted and/or audio described performance is available for each education production at New Victory. We suggest you reserve tickets to these performances for this service and request it during your order. Please contact [Education\\_Tickets@NewVictory.org](mailto:Education_Tickets@NewVictory.org) if you are not able to reserve tickets and need this service.

**Sensory Friendly:** NEW VICTORY Education offers sensory friendly performances for certain shows. The sound will be adjusted to lower levels. House lights will be left at half. Fidgets are available as needed at every NEW VICTORY performance. Please ask a staff member if you need one during your next visit.

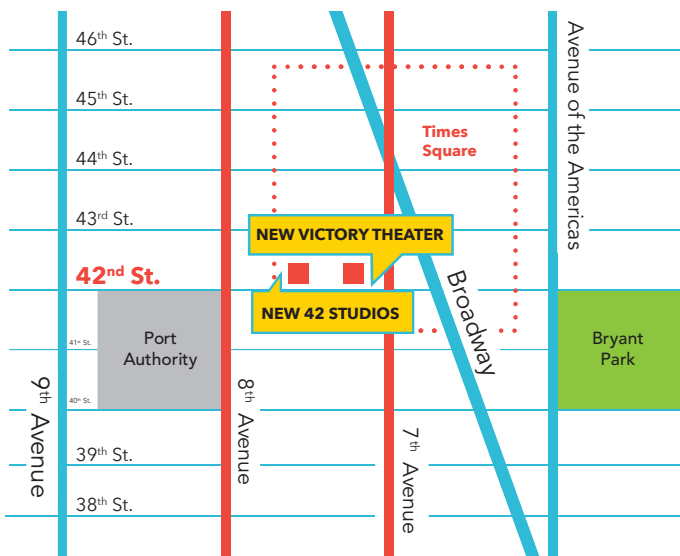
## Directions

**NEW VICTORY THEATER**  
209 West 42nd Street

**NEW 42 STUDIOS**  
229 West 42nd Street

### BY SCHOOL BUS

It is safest to drop off and pick up your school group on the **north side of the street** in front of the venue. Turn onto 42nd Street from 7th Avenue so students can unload in front.



### BY MTA, SUBWAY OR BUS

#### **1/2/3 N/R/Q/W/7**

Exit the station at 42nd Street/7th Avenue. When you come out of the turnstile, take the stairs to your right. All NEW VICTORY venues are directly to the west of the subway station.

#### **A/C/E to Port Authority**

Exit at 42nd Street/8th Avenue. Walk to 42nd Street, turn east, and continue walking until you arrive at NEW VICTORY venues.

#### **B/D/F/M**

Exit at 42nd Street/6th Avenue. Walk west on 42nd Street until you come to 7th Avenue. The venues are on the north side of the street at 7th Avenue, next to the subway station.

**The M10, M16, M27, M42, M104 buses all stop within one block of the venues.**

### During the show

42nd Street is extremely congested and has a high volume of traffic. **According to the New York City Department of Transportation, vehicles are not allowed to sit idle or park on the street without special permission.** Once your bus is empty, it is important that the bus driver find parking at a nearby location— see possible parking locations below.

*If a driver chooses to park on 42nd Street, they do so at their own risk of being ticketed by the police. The New Victory Theater is not responsible for bus drivers who receive parking tickets.*

### Possible parking locations

8th Avenue (both sides) between 38th and 39th Streets

11th Avenue (both sides) between 39th and 40th Streets

### Pick up

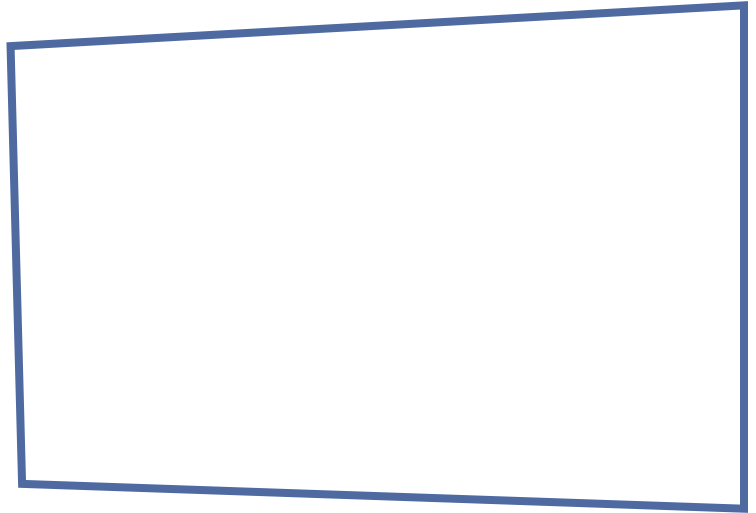
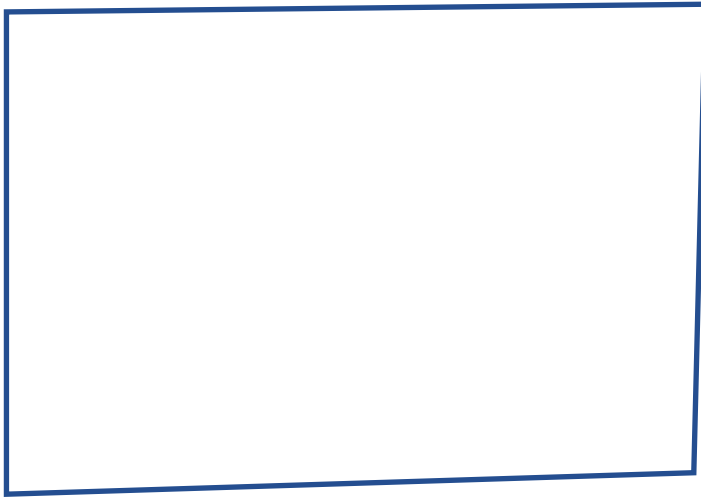
Taking Midtown traffic into consideration, bus drivers should leave their waiting location approximately 15 minutes prior to the return time given by the Front of House staff. Front of House staff will also help find a spot on 42nd Street to safely load your student group after the show has ended.

# HEADING TO THE THEATER: Creativity Page

**IMAGINE,  
IF YOU  
WILL...**

What do you think the world looked like 500 million years ago, in the time of the trilobites? What kinds of creatures inhabited the waters, the land and the air? What happened to them?

Engage your imagination and, using the storyboard panels below, create your own graphic novel telling the story of the world's landscape, and its inhabitants, as it was many eons ago!



**RIDDLE  
OF THE  
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## AFTER THE SHOW

Following your NEW VICTORY trip, your students will want to discuss the performance or engage further with the art forms and show themes. Reflecting on the show and forming an aesthetic response is an important part of the theater-going experience! The activities and creativity pages in this section allow opportunities for students to activate and articulate their own thoughts, hear their classmates' ideas and extend the theater-going experience!

### Performance Reflection

**Activity: I'll Stop the World and Molt with You!**

**Creativity Page: Riddle Me This**

### Sources

# RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES

**NEW VICTORY® THEATER**

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# Performance Reflection

Following your trip to the New Victory, you may find that your students want to discuss the performance and their own opinions. Reflecting on the show and voicing an aesthetic response is an important part of the theater-going experience. Allowing your students the opportunity to articulate their own thoughts and hear the ideas of their classmates will increase the impact of the theater experience. **Engage in a conversation with your students to help them process their thoughts and feelings about the show by leading students in a discussion:**

*What was the story about?*

*Who were the characters and what was their relationship to each other?*

*What were they in search of? Did they find it?*

*What were your favorite parts of the show?*

*What objects did you see onstage? How were they used? Did they remind you of anything?*

*What different production elements (music, lighting, costumes, set, etc.) did you notice in the show?*

*How did the show make you feel?*

## TEACHER TIP

Engaging in dialogue, asking questions and recalling observations are skills that we believe should be fostered and encouraged. When leading a performance reflection discussion, try the following model of critical response:

**Describe** (*I saw...*)

**Analyze** (*I wonder...*)

**Interpret** (*I think/feel...*)

**Evaluate** (*I believe...*)

**RIDDLE**  
**OF THE**  
**TRILOBITES**

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## AFTER THE SHOW: Activity

# I'LL STOP THE WORLD AND MOLT WITH YOU!

In RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES, Aphra's grandmother, Galla, sings, "Just take a gulp, go with the tide. Change is all a part of the ride..."

Use this activity to explore students' personal relationship to the theme of change, and celebrate your class with a molting festival!

**Materials Needed: butcher paper, tape, decorating materials, and/or whatever else easily accessible to make a molt-able cape!**

1. First, have a group discussion about what change means to your students. *How does change feel to them? Is it scary? Exciting? Nerve-wracking?* Have students think about a specific instance in which they have changed in the past year.
2. On a large piece of chart paper, make a list of the different instances in which you and your students noticed the theme of change in RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES.
3. Have each student create a cape out of butcher paper and/or other easily accessible materials. Have them decorate one side to represent how they are now, and the other side to represent their change after they "molt." In the show, Aphra has a marking that identifies her as unique to the rest of the trilobites that only shows after she molts. Encourage your students to include a special marking on the post-molting side of their cape. Instruct them to keep their "change" side to themselves, so later when they molt it is a surprise for the rest of the class! **Note:** Let your students define "change" how they want to, but if they need more explicit direction, tell them to think about how they have changed over the past year on the inside. This is their opportunity to show everyone else that change on the outside!
4. Throw a molting day celebration! Have all of your students wear their capes with their pre-molting side facing out. Play music, have snacks and enjoy each others' company! Then, have the whole class countdown from ten and simultaneously "molt" by reversing their capes!
5. Then, have a group discussion and have each student explain the choices they made, and why, to a peer. *What were you thinking about when designing your cape? What does your molting mark represent?* Have volunteers share their thoughts with the rest of the class!

### Reflection Questions:

*What was your favorite part of this activity?*

*How did it feel to artistically represent change?*

*What did you learn about your peers that you didn't already know?*

*What was challenging about this activity?*

**RIDDLE  
OF THE  
TRILOBITES**

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# ? ? RIDDLE ME THIS ?

In RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES, our heros were tasked with solving the Riddle of the Ancients: *when the ocean changes, the trilobites cannot live but will not die*. How did the ancients come up with that? What exactly goes into creating a riddle?

Use the page below to create a riddle of your very own. Then, share it with a partner to see if they can solve it!



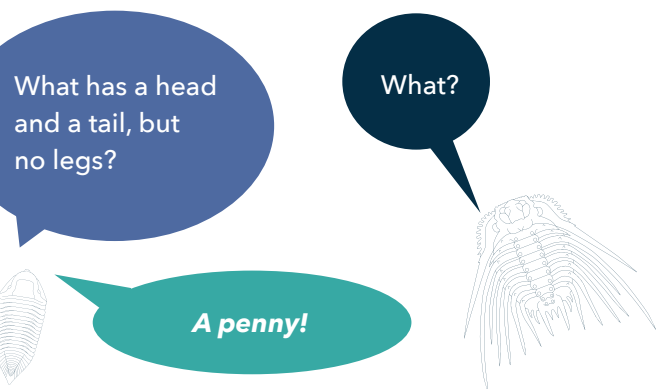
**Need some inspiration?** Here is a list of riddles to get you into the mindset for creating your own kooky conundrums!

**The Riddle:** What is an eight-letter word that, when a letter is taken away, still makes a word? Take another letter away and it still makes a word! Repeat that until there's only one letter left. What is the word?

**The Answer:** *Starting! Starting, staring, string, sting, sing, sin, in, I.*

**The Riddle:** The more one takes of me, the more one leaves behind! What am I?

**The Answer:** *Footsteps.*



# RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES

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# SOURCES:

## CONTENT & THEMES

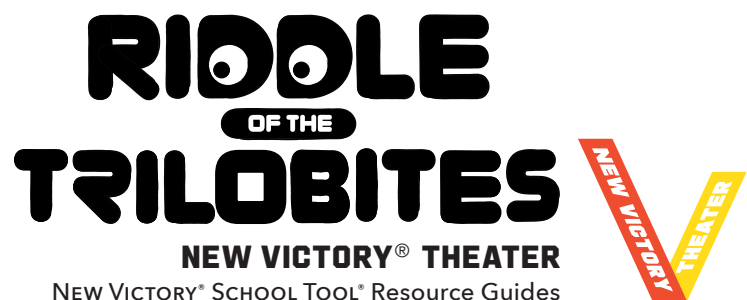
<https://www.livescience.com/63267-hothouse-earth-dangerously-close.html>

<https://www.pnas.org/content/115/33/8252>

<https://www.livescience.com/28219-holocene-epoch.html>

<https://www.riddles.com/quiz/10-best-riddles>

**RIDDLE OF THE TRILOBITES Photos:** Mike Naddeo



# A Land Acknowledgement



Photo: Mark LaRosa



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