

Dear Educator:

Get set to bring the spirit of the 60's back to life in your classroom when **Hairspray LIVE!** kicks off the holiday season in an all-new LIVE production on Wednesday, December 7th, at 8/7c on NBC.

Produced by the same creative team that has made LIVE Broadway musicals a holiday tradition on NBC, **Hairspray LIVE!** features a star-studded cast of sensational talent, including Grammy® and Academy Award® winner Jennifer Hudson, pop mega-star Ariana Grande, Tony® and Emmy® Award winner Kristin Chenoweth, Disney Channel star Dove Cameron, Emmy® Award winner Derek Hough, newcomer Maddie Baillio as Tracy, and many more! Plus Harvey Fierstein is reprising his Tony® Award-winning role as Tracy's mother, Edna.

Hairspray LIVE!, the irresistible story of a teenage girl with big hair and big dreams, brims with the energy and optimism of the 60's, celebrating self-acceptance, the joy of embracing our differences, and the liberating power of change. It offers a perfect opportunity to introduce your students to the cultural and social trends that made the 60's a transformative time in American history and to explore how the ideals of the 60's continue to resonate for teens today.

To help you make **Hairspray LIVE!** part of your class plans, NBC and the curriculum experts at YMI have developed this free study guide, with activities students can use to stage a 60's day in your classroom, and to sing and dance along with their families as they watch the show. Plan now to complete these activities in class on December 6th-8th, and please share this educational opportunity with other teachers at your school.

Alert your students to get ready to dress up for an in-class 60's Day on December 7th and then watch **Hairspray LIVE!** with their families at 8/7c on NBC.

We look forward to your comments on this educational program. Please return the enclosed reply card, or send us your feedback online at ymiclassroom.com/feedback-hairspray. We depend on your input to continue providing free classroom resources that make a real difference for your students.

Sincerely,



Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired



Created by Young Minds Inspired

Questions? Contact YMI toll-free at 1-800-859-8005, or by email at feedback@ymiclassroom.com.

Grade Level

This program is designed for middle and high school students as a supplement to the social studies, language arts, and performing arts curriculum.

Educational Objectives

- Help students and their families experience the excitement of seeing a Broadway musical performed live on television as they watch **Hairspray LIVE!** on Wednesday, December 7th at 8/7c on NBC.
- Channel the anticipation and thrill of this viewing experience into learning activities that encourage historical research and spark imaginative engagement.
- Encourage students to reflect on the themes of **Hairspray LIVE!**, explore their personal feelings about the performance, and discuss its impact.

Program Components

- This one-page teacher's guide.
- Two reproducible student activity sheets for use before, during, and after the December 7th broadcast of **Hairspray LIVE!**
- A wall poster for display in your classroom.
- A reply card for your comments, or reply online at ymiclassroom.com/feedback-hairspray.

How to use this Program

- Photocopy this teacher's guide and the two activity sheets before putting the wall poster on display in your classroom.
- Provide other teachers with photocopies of the reproducible program materials and encourage them to implement the program in their classes.
- Schedule the program for December 6th-8th. Plan to have students complete the activities before, during, and after watching **Hairspray LIVE!** Stage a 60's day in your classroom on December 7th to build anticipation for watching **Hairspray LIVE!** that evening at 8/7c on NBC.

Standards Alignment

This program meets Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts for middle school and high school. For detailed standards correlation, visit ymiclassroom.com/hairspray.

About the Show

Share this synopsis with your students prior to beginning Activity One:

Hairspray LIVE! is the story of Tracy Turnblad, a teenager with big hair and big dreams. Despite the objections of her stay-at-home mother, Edna, Tracy becomes an overnight sensation when her dance moves win her a role on *The Corny Collins Show*, a teen dance show on local TV. Tracy's talent also wins the heart of Link Larkin, the show's dreamboat. Her success stirs the envy of Amber Von Tussle and her mother Velma, who see Tracy as Amber's rival for the title of Miss Teenage Hairspray. But Tracy has bigger plans! Before long she's leading a campaign to integrate the all-white *Corny Collins Show*. Tracy teams up with Seaweed, an African American boy who shares her passion for dancing. And she has the help of Seaweed's mother, Motormouth Maybelle — a record store owner who shares Tracy's vision of social justice. Together, they finally break down the color barrier that divides the show's dance floor and prove that we all dance to the same beat.

ACTIVITY ONE

Welcome to the 60's!

Schedule this activity for December 6th to generate enthusiasm for staging a 60's Day in class that will build anticipation for watching **Hairspray LIVE!** on Wednesday, December 7th, at 8/7c on NBC.

Everybody's Rockin'! introduces the main characters of **Hairspray LIVE!** with a matching quiz. Use the synopsis above to familiarize students with the show before they complete the quiz, then review the answers in class. Answers: 1-D, 2-F, 3-H, 4-A, 5-G, 6-B, 7-E, 8-C.



You can't stop the beat!



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
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WEDNESDAY DEC 7 • 8/7c  **NBC**

Signs of the Times gets students excited about the iconic decade when **Hairspray LIVE!** takes place by inviting them to compare the styles, music, and social issues of the 60's with those of today. Have students work in pairs or small groups to fill in the graphic organizer by researching the 60's online and brainstorming equivalent signs of our times. Then allow time for students to share what they have learned in a class discussion. Follow-up by discussing how the personalities and relationships that make up the teen world of **Hairspray LIVE!** compare with teen life today.

60's Day! challenges students to warm up for their in-class 60's Day by learning some dance steps from that swinging era. Visit the **Hairspray LIVE!** microsite at ymiclassroom.com/hairspray for links to videos showing 60's dances like the Twist, the Mashed Potato, the Pony, the Monkey, the Hitch Hike, the Jerk, the Swim, and the Madison. Tell students they will be looking for these dances when they watch **Hairspray LIVE!** with their families.

Bring the 60's to Life in Your Classroom!

Build anticipation for the December 7th broadcast of **Hairspray LIVE!** at 8/7c on NBC by having students come to class that day dressed in 60's styles and ready to rock to 60's tunes. Use the additional activity ideas on page 4 of this guide to explore the exuberant songs and dances of that era and the ideals that made it a transformative period in American history.

ACTIVITY TWO

We All Dance to the Same Beat!

Distribute this activity sheet at the end of your 60's Day on Wednesday, December 7th, so that students can use it while they watch **Hairspray LIVE!** with their families that night at 8/7c on NBC. Review all parts of the activity sheet in class so that students will be prepared to come back and discuss the show on Thursday.

Get in the Groove provides lyrics to several songs in **Hairspray LIVE!** so that students and their family can sing along. This part of the activity also highlights some important themes of the show by asking students to match each song with its theme. When students bring the sheet back to class, review the themes students have assigned to each song and explore how these and other songs from **Hairspray LIVE!**, although rooted in the time and circumstances of the show's plot, express values and ideals we still hold today. Answers: 1-C, 2-A, 3-B, 4-E, 5-D.

This part of the activity also asks students to write a short paragraph on the back of the sheet describing how one of the show's themes is embodied by a historical figure, celebrity, family member, or some other role model whom they admire. Invite students to share their paragraphs in class the next day and discuss how a song can take on added meaning when it reflects some aspect of real life.

Teens Forever! turns **Hairspray LIVE!** into an intergenerational learning experience by having students ask their parents about their own teen years and how they compared with the world of the teens portrayed in the show. Encourage students to take notes on their interviews, on the back of the activity sheet or in a notebook, so they can share what they learn back in class. Use their findings to explore how teen styles, interests, and attitudes have changed since their parents' day.

Shimmy and Shake! focuses on the choreography of **Hairspray LIVE!**, encouraging students and their parents to get up and get in on the fun by dancing along with the stars of the show. Students are also asked to note any 60's dances they saw in the show. Have students share their dance notes in class the next day, and invite them to demonstrate some of the steps they picked up.

The Hits Keep on Coming!

Use these additional activity ideas during your in-class 60's Day or to supplement the lessons outlined on the activity sheets.

Welcome to the 60's!

Get ready for a rock-and-roll revival when NBC kicks off the holiday season with a one-time-only LIVE production of the legendary Broadway musical, **Hairspray LIVE!**, on Wednesday, December 7th, at 8/7c.

Everybody's Rockin'!

Set in the early 1960's, **Hairspray LIVE!** follows a crew of dance-crazy high school kids whose energy and optimism start a chain reaction of change in their town. Meet the characters of this groovin' musical by matching them to their descriptions.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. ____ Tracy Turnblad | A. A teen queen who will do anything to become Miss Teenage Hairspray |
| 2. ____ Edna Turnblad | B. A dynamite dancer who teams up with Tracy to break barriers on the dance floor |
| 3. ____ Link Larkin | C. The host of a teen dance show on local TV |
| 4. ____ Amber Von Tussle | D. A self-confident teen whose dancing talent makes her a local celebrity |
| 5. ____ Velma Von Tussle | E. A record store owner who teams up with Tracy to prove that we all dance to the same beat |
| 6. ____ Seaweed J. Stubbs | F. A stay-at-home mom who learns to take her daughter's advice and get with the times |
| 7. ____ Motormouth Maybelle Stubbs | G. A scheming mom who is determined to turn her daughter into a star |
| 8. ____ Corny Collins | H. A dreamboat who falls for Tracy when they pair up on the dance floor |

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Signs of the Times

Swing into the 60's by learning more about the iconic decade when **Hairspray LIVE!** takes place. Whether it's Tracy's trademark bouffant hairstyle — a favorite of teenage girls — or TV programs like *The Corny Collins Show*, where teens danced to the latest tunes, the 60's were a time of unforgettable fads and fashions. Work with a classmate or small group to research the styles, music, and social issues of the 60's. Use this chart to record your findings and compare them with similar signs of the times today.

Style



60's hairstyles and fashions

Today's hairstyles and fashions

Music



60's hit tunes and dances

Today's hit tunes and dances

Social Issues



60's social issues

Today's social issues

60's Day!

Now put on your dancing shoes and get ready for a 60's Day in your classroom tomorrow! Your teacher will show you videos of 60's dances like the Twist, the Mashed Potato, the Pony, the Monkey, the Hitch Hike, the Jerk, the Swim, and the Madison. Try out the steps in class, and be on the lookout for these dances when you and your family watch **Hairspray LIVE!**

You can't stop the beat!

Hairspray
LIVE!

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We All Dance to the Same Beat!

Get ready to shimmy and shake tonight! Gather your family and tune in for **Hairspray LIVE!** at 8/7c on NBC. Add to the fun with these family viewing activities.

Get in the Groove

Use these lyrics to sing along with some of the hit songs of **Hairspray LIVE!** Then, after the show, use the Theme List to see if you and your family can match each song to the theme it represents.

1. Welcome to the 60's

So let go, go, go of the past now
Say hello to the love in your heart
Yes, I know that the world's spinning fast now
You gotta get yourself a brand new start
Hey mama, welcome to the Sixties

2. Mama, I'm A Big Girl Now

Once upon a time when I was just a kid
You never let me do just what the older kids did
But lose that laundry list of what you won't allow
'Cause mama, I'm a big girl now

3. Big, Blonde, And Beautiful

Once upon a time
Girl I was just like you
Never let my extra large
Largesse shine through
Then one day my grandma
Who was big and stout
She said you gotta love yourself
From inside out

4. I Know Where I've Been

There's a dream in the future
There's a struggle, that we have yet to win
And there's pride in my heart
'Cause I know where I'm going
And I know where I've been

5. You Can't Stop The Beat

Cause you can't stop the motion of the ocean,
or the rain from above
You can try to stop the paradise we're
dreamin' of
But you cannot stop the rhythm of two
hearts in love to stay
Cause you can't stop the beat!

You can't stop the beat!

Hairspray

LIVE!

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Theme List

Write the song number next to the theme it best represents.

- ___ A. Independence
- ___ B. Self-acceptance
- ___ C. Embracing change
- ___ D. Perseverance
- ___ E. Racial equality



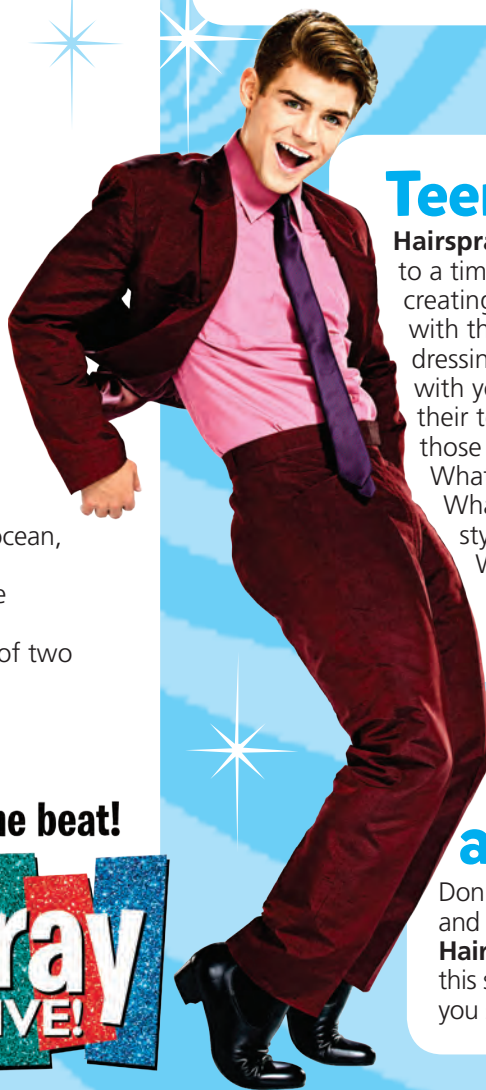
Now think about which theme from **Hairspray LIVE!** is embodied by a historical figure, celebrity, family member, or some other role model whom you admire. Write a paragraph on the back of this sheet describing how this person exemplifies the theme.

Teens Forever!

Hairspray LIVE! takes us back to a time when teenagers were creating a culture of their own, with their own ways of talking, dressing, and having fun. Talk with your parents about how their teen years compared with those of the kids in the show. What was their favorite music? What were the popular hair styles, fashions, and dances? What were some social issues they cared about? Take notes to share what you learn in class.

Shimmy and Shake!

Don't just sit there! Get up and dance with your family to **Hairspray LIVE!** Use the back of this sheet to list the 60's dances you see performed in the show.



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

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Hairspray LIVE!

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