

**BECAUSE
OF THEM
WE CAN**

BOX

JUST FOR KIDS

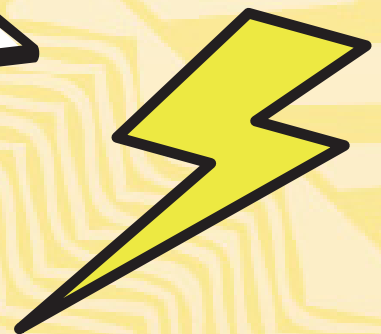
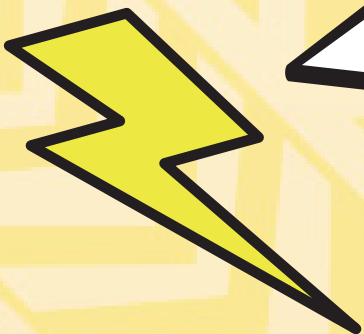
BECAUSE OF **RUTH CARTER**

AGES 9-12

**IDEATE!
EXPLORE!
CREATE!**



RUTH CARTER



MAKING MOVIE MAGIC

Instructions: Read the sections about Ruth Carter's life, then answer the questions, using the images to help guide your answers.



Have you ever played dress up and made an amazing **costume** for one of your adventures? Well, how about doing that as a career? Not actually designing for yourself, but for actors in a movie? Well, Ruth Carter does just that. She is a movie costume designer who is especially known for winning an **Academy Award** in 2019 for Marvel's *Black Panther* – this made her the first Black person to win for the best costume design category! She was also **nominated** for many awards for her costumes before then.

Ruth Carter was born in Springfield, Massachusetts. For a short time, she thought about an acting career – but after not getting the part in a few auditions she was asked to do some costume design, because she could sew. She then fell in love with costume design while she was a student at Hampton University (an HBCU in Hampton, Virginia). Spike Lee, a Black male filmmaker known for his movies about the Black experience, gave Ruth Carter her first **opportunity** when she worked on his film *School Daze*. She worked with Lee on many films after that.

Ruth Carter has designed thousands of costumes for over 60 films. She loves using them to help the films, the characters, and the stories really come alive. She believes that costumes tell important and powerful stories just like films do. Her work is very important to her, and one of the reasons why she is so **successful** is that she takes the time to do research and to talk to **historians** when designing her costumes.

For *Black Panther*, the film whose costumes led to her Oscar win, Carter really wanted to use **traditional** African design and tell the story of a future world all at the same time. The style that she uses is called “Afro-futurism”, which she sees as telling stories about the Black experience. Ruth Carter has worked for over 35 years in her career, and her **creativity** and style have really helped to shape Black film.



READ & RESPOND



1. What is Ruth Carter best known for?

2. What led Ruth Carter into costume design?

3. When you look at the second image, what does that tell you about Ruth Carter and her work?

4. How do the images help support what you read about Ruth Carter in the text?

THINK ABOUT YOUR CHARACTER...

Instructions: When designing costumes, the designer has to think about the characters they're dressing and the story the character is living in. Things like the time they live in, the place they're from, and the kind of work they do are all considered when designing a costume! In this exercise, we'll think hard about the details that make a character, and help make the costume!

Step 1: What is your favorite book or movie? What is it about?

Think about a movie or book that you really like and write a little description about it. This will really help you to think about the story. Remember that costumes support the story being told, so be as detailed as you can - this will help you design a great costume.

Step 2: Write a little about the character that you want to design for. What are they like? What are their favorite colors? Think about what their style would be and write some notes below.

Step 3: What year does the story in the book or movie take place?

GLOSSARY

Costume - the clothes that are worn by someone (such as an actor) who is trying to look like a different person or thing

Academy Award - an award given by part of the U.S. film industry to the best actors, directors, etc., of the year

Nominated - formally chosen as a candidate for a job, position, office, etc.

Opportunity - an amount of time or a situation in which something can be done : a chance

Successful - having gotten or achieved wealth, respect, or fame

Historian - a person who studies or writes about history

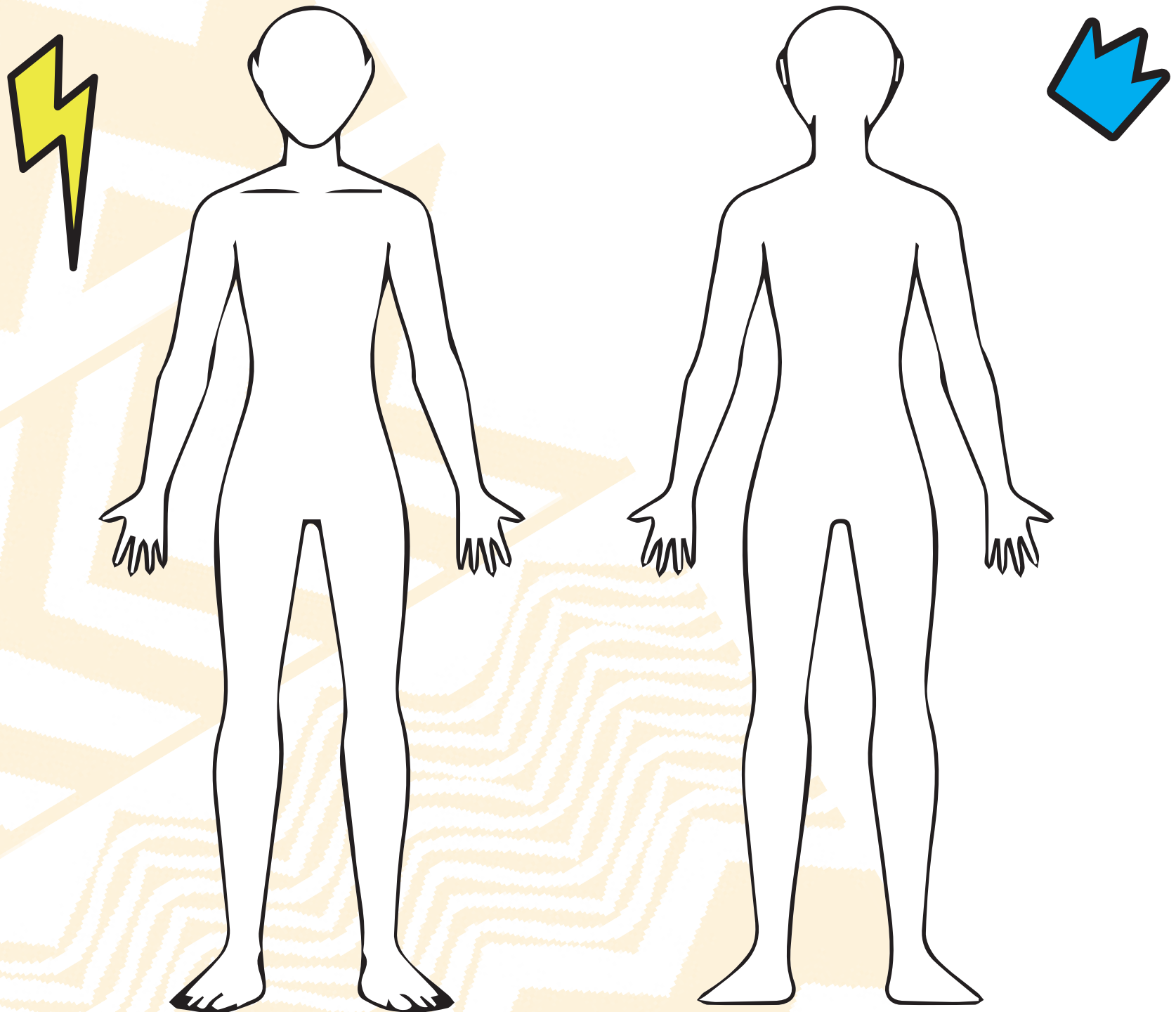
Traditional - based on a way of thinking, behaving, or doing something that has been used by the people in a particular group, family, society, etc., for a long time : following the tradition of a certain group or culture

Creativity - the ability to make new things or think of new ideas



... AND DESIGN THE COSTUME!

Step 4: Using all the information you have written down, think about a costume you want to create for your character. You will make a sketch (or sample drawing) of your costume in the image below.



Step 5: Think about the fabric or material you would want to use and make a note of it.

Step 6: Show off your costumes!



KNOWLEDGE + CREATIVITY = STYLE

Fashion designers actually use a good amount of math in their work. Think about creating an outfit from start to finish - you will need math to measure the right amount of fabric, to sew or cut in the right places for the look you want, to determine your cost for materials, to work out how much money you will make - and so much more. In the task below you will answer some questions that a fashion designer might have! Do you have the right skills and ideas to create a winning style?

1. You are designing a look for a red carpet event. You have already drawn your sketch and now you are ready to buy some fabric. You cut a piece of fabric that is 8 feet long and 10 feet wide - how much is that in square feet? But you only need a total area of 50 square ft. How much fabric will be left over?

2. Now that you have the fabric, you need to find out how much it is going to cost you. The average price of fabric is between \$7 and \$20 per yard (which is 3 feet). In this case you found fabric that cost you \$8 per yard OR \$2 per square foot. How much will the amount of fabric you need cost you?

3. You have paid for your fabric and you have a budget of \$200. Did you meet your budget? Why or why not?

4. You now have to determine how much you want to sell your item for. You want to make at least \$100. How much should you sell it for?

ANSWER KEY: (1) The piece that is cut is 80 square feet. You will have 30 square feet left over. **(2)** The fabric will cost \$100 (find this by multiplying \$2 by 50 to get your answer). **(3)** Yes. The budget is for \$200 and you only are spending \$100. **(4)** To make a least \$100 profit you need to sell it for \$200. Add the cost of the fabric (\$100) to the amount of profit you want to make (\$100) and this adds up to \$200.

TAKE THE PLEDGE

I WILL HONOR
THE SACRIFICES OF
MY ANCESTORS.

I WILL BELIEVE
IN ME.

I WILL PURSUE
MY DREAMS.

I WILL HELP
OTHERS ALONG
THE WAY.