

USE THIS LESSON TO:

Use this session to explore what blocking means and to learn about how the stage is used by the performers in *The Lion King*.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- **Notebook**
- **Pencil or pen**
- **Small pieces of paper**



SPACE

EXPLORE ⌚ 10 MINUTES

Imagine the room you are in is now a stage! Choose where the audience would sit. Using a pen and index cards (or cut up pieces of paper), create labels for the parts of the stage and place them in the appropriate spots in the room to match the below diagram:

AUDIENCE		
DSL (downstage left)	DSC (downstage centre)	DSR (downstage right)
SL (stage left)	CS (centre stage)	SR (stage right)
USL (upstage left)	USC (upstage centre)	USR (upstage right)

Now, move to the different parts of the stage, using the following prompts. For an added level of difficulty, try it without the labels!

- Move to UPSTAGE RIGHT as though you are tall grass
- Move to UPSTAGE LEFT as though you are a lion on the hunt
- Move UPSTAGE CENTRE as though you are flowing water
- Move STAGE LEFT as though you are an elephant
- Move STAGE RIGHT as though you are a gazelle
- Move CENTRE STAGE as though you are caught in a thunderstorm
- Move DOWN STAGE RIGHT as though you are walking through an extremely hot jungle
- Move DOWN STAGE LEFT as though you are a giraffe
- Move DOWN STAGE CENTRE as though you are caught in a stampede

CREATE ⌚ 10 MINUTES

Create your own blocking for the following scene: Timon and Pumbaa enter, chased by a hungry Nala. Simba steps in to protect his friends. Write at least five steps of blocking, using these rules:

- Include at least one entrance.
- Include at least one exit.
- Use the parts of the stage (example: upstage right).
- Write using the standard abbreviations (example: USR).
- Next, using other people – or objects – to play the characters, act out your scene!

LEVEL UP: Notate your blocking by drawing an outline of the stage and mapping out where each character would move. Make sure to include all entrances, exits, and make note of any props or set pieces. During a rehearsal process, an actor must always keep good track of their blocking so they remember it later.

SHARE ⌚ 5 MINUTES

Share your blocking with the people in your home.

REFLECT ⌚ 5 MINUTES

Answer the following questions:

- How can knowing the parts of the stage help actors or directors?
- What was challenging about creating blocking?