

## COSTUME DISTRESSING

Do you know what costume distressing is? Think of the meaning of the word 'distress' or 'distressing' and see if you can guess what this could mean in relation to costumes in a film.

Imagine some of the battle scenes in the Harry Potter films. If you can, watch the scene in Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone when Harry must defend himself from You-Know-Who! As you watch the scene, try to create a timeline of events and note down anything you notice about the costume as the storyline develops.

**How did the costume change?**

Costume breakdown artists use different methods to 'age' a costume or make it look like it's been involved in a battle sequence.

**They use:**

- ♦ A spray bottle filled with water and instant tea granules to create sweat
- ♦ A sprinkling of flour to create dust
- ♦ Shoe polish to create greasy dirt
- ♦ Scissors to cut holes into the clothing

*Sometimes, they will even use sand paper and cheese graters rubbed against the material to make an item look torn or threadbare!*

### ACTIVITY

*Become a costume breakdown artist in your own home*

**Design a costume for yourself**, as if you have been involved in a wand battle, or as if you've been mauled by a baby dragon! You can come up with your own scenario if you like. Annotate your design to show where and how the wear and tear occurs.

After you have designed the costume, find an old piece of clothing and (this is important!) **check if it's okay to distress it for your costume breakdown artist activity.**

If you get permission, **ask for an adult's help** to distress it so that it reflects the narrative of your costume design.

**Be safe at all times.**

You could write a story/screenplay of what has happened to you!



As the action happens,  
the costumes become  
more damaged.

Look at the costume  
closely and think about  
the story being told.

## COSTUME DESIGN

Add fabric swatches and design ideas to create your character.

How would you distress the fabric on the costume?

