



Clip: Dance Training

Episode 2: Week Zero

Activity: Cultural Dances

Theme: Dance knowledge

Elements of dance: body, relationships

1. Australia is a multicultural society which embraces many forms of traditional dance. Ask the students to consider their ancestry and whether there is a dance style associated with their culture/s. As a class, discuss different cultural dances: why, where and when they are performed and by whom. List the different cultures that the class nominates and beside these nationalities list the traditional dances that the students know how to perform.
2. Allow a period of time for students to research and develop a collage of dance images from a specific cultural dance style. Have them include at least one dance term associated with their chosen cultural dance, for example, the hornpipe, jig or reel for Irish dancing.
3. Ask each student to select a cultural dance style, particularly the style they researched for their collage. Pair students and have each student teach their pair a section of the dance, or if it is simple and repetitive, they can teach the whole dance.
4. Divide the class into groups of six and ask the groups to select one cultural dance that they would like to perform together. Ask the students to document the movements from the dance in **Student Activity Sheet E2.3 Teaching a Cultural Dance**.
5. Invite the groups to perform their cultural dance for the rest of the class. The groups should be able to explain the meaning of the dance and when and by whom it is traditionally performed.
6. Have students share their cultural dance collage and present it to the class. Initiate a discussion with the class about each dance. In particular, discuss cultural costume styles that might be worn for the dance, the performance environment (i.e. outdoors, during festivals, on a stage), and the occasion or customs of the dance. For higher year levels, consider the spacing of participants for the dance, the patterns used, and the role of circles in community dances.

Download

- Student Activity Sheet E2.3 Teaching a Cultural Dance

Useful resources

- [Folk Dances from around the world](#)
- [Buzzle.com: Dance styles timeline](#)
- [Street swing: Dance Time line - At a Glance](#)
- [Indigenous Dance Company - Bangarra Dance Theatre](#)
- [Swing Patrol](#)
- [Cool cats Rock 'n' Roll](#)



NAME:

Student Activity Sheet: E2.3
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Dance

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Teaching a Cultural Dance

The following is a table to help in the teaching of a cultural dance.

| Movement Name | Description | Illustration | Repetitions | Counts |
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