

Arts Integration: African Dance

Lesson Plan

Lesson Name: South African Gumboot Dance

Goal: Inter-relate African dance with West African Textiles exhibit

Objective:

The students will be able to do the following:

- Perform dance from the South Africa culture
- Connect dance to global issues

Grade Level: 4-7

Arts Standards addressed:

- Use dance as a means of communication and self expression
- Demonstrate and understand dance in African culture

Other Subject Areas Standards addressed:

- Social Studies - include experiences that provide for the study of culture and cultural diversity.

Instructional Outline:

Introduction: The gumboot dance developed from traditional African roots to become a part of urban South African working-class culture. The practice began with rural laborers who came to work at the gold mines in South Africa. They brought with them strong traditions of rhythm, song, and dance. Facing oppression and hardship at the mines, including punishment if they talked to each other while working, they were forced to adapt and create new forms of communication. The conditions of the mines were deplorable, where mine floors often flooded due to poor drainage, causing skin problems and disease. Rather than spending money to properly drain the shafts, the bosses issued rubber gumboots to the workers. Inside the mines, the workers used the gumboots to communicate with each other, by slapping their boots, stamping their feet and rattling their ankle chains.

Classroom Management Strategy: Students begin in a scattered formation in their personal space. A double drum beat is used to signal freeze. Teacher signals "Yo students", students respond "What's up?" 5-4-3-2-1 to quiet listening.

Main Activity:

Count 4/4 time, 16 count phrases

1. Four chugs... step forward R, back L, side R, side L (4 counts) - repeat 4 times
2. Four chugs... add first variation: hit R calf with R hand on & 1 - repeat 4 times
3. Four chugs... add second variation: hit L calf with L hand on & 2 Repeat 4 times
4. Four chugs...add third variation: two hand claps on counts 3-4
5. Four chugs... add fourth variation: hit R calf with R hand on & 1, hit L calf with L hand on & 2, hit R calf with R hand on & 3, hit L foot (behind R leg) with R hand on & 4
6. Eight stomps... both hands slap calf R-L-R-L-R-L-R, hit R thigh on &, make final shape on 8

Additional Information:

Materials Needed:

Open space for movement

Outcomes/Assessment:

Video tape performance

Review criteria for quality performance

Complete performance checklist

Potential Challenges:

Classroom management