

**Kennedy Center Partners
Arts Integration
Lesson Plan**

Lesson Name: Mastodon March

Goal: To understand “Mastodon Facts” through creative movement (kinesthetic)

Objective: To engage all students in the process of creating and performing the dance

The students will be able to:

- follow word cues for movement
- work cooperatively in interpretation of “storyline”
- develop movements representing mastodon characteristics
- manipulate and utilize a prop for character presentation

Grade Level: Developmental Kindergarten

Arts Standards addressed:

Performing – Identify and demonstrate movement elements / skills in performing dance

Creating – Understand dance as a way to create and communicate meaning

Interdisciplinary Connections – Make connections between dance and other disciplines

Other Subject Areas Standards addressed:

Language Arts

Writing – Use the general skills and strategies of the writing process

Listening & Speaking – Use listening & speaking strategies for different purposes

Science

Life Sciences – Understand biological evolution and the diversity of life, compare & contrast

Instructional Outline:

- 1. Review script (created in kindergarten classroom)**
- 2. Improvise and explore creative movement**
- 3. Structure movement to follow the script**
- 4. Practice, practice, practice!**

Introduction:

Discuss the compare/contrast process with dinosaur, elephants and mammoths. Follow a poem from “Dinosaur Dances” to play with dinosaur movements.

Remember... “A Mastodon is Not a Dinosaur!”

Classroom Management Strategy:

Double drum beat signals to “freeze”

Stars on the floor assist with maintaining personal space

Prep Activity:

Experiment with movement ideas and qualities appropriate to mastodons.

Main Activity:

Read the script.

Mastodons...

- were alive 32 million to 10,000 years ago
- lived in the Ice Age when it was very cold
- lived in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, New York and Missouri
- traveled in herds
- had brown shaggy hair and long hairy tails

- a hairy trunk and tusks that were 7 to 9 feet long
- had short legs and little ears
- were hunted by Native Americans for food
- ate shrubs, bark, twigs and evergreen trees
- are in museums because they are extinct

A mastodon is not a dinosaur... a mastodon is a mammal!

Additional Information:

Brown shaggy tails (costume optional)

Materials Needed:

Styrofoam tusks, Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring" music, script, open space for movement

Outcomes/Assessment:

All school assembly performance (Discovery Club)

Self & group assessment followed with watching performance video

Checklists available for evaluation criteria

Potential Challenges:

1. **Finding sufficient rehearsal time on the stage**
2. **Monitoring students unable to follow directions**
3. **Maintaining safety on stage for students that lacked self control**