

Lesson Plan

Dance Divisions

Book: *Ballroom Dance*

Series: Shall We Dance?

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice summarizing information and learn about the various kinds of ballroom dances and their origins.

Supplies

- *Ballroom Dance* book
- Ballroom Dance styles web resource: <http://www.pbs.org/americas-ballroom-challenge/ballroom-dance-styles/>
- Dance Divisions Guided Reading Assignment (attached)
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Read through the *Ballroom Dance* book, or assign it to students to read on their own. Print several copies of the Dance Divisions GRA. Cut them apart so that each Dance Division is on a separate slip of paper.

Activity

There are many different styles of ballroom dancing. When dancers compete at competitions, these dances can be divided into different divisions. Each division contains different kinds of ballroom dances. These dances have different characteristics and rules.

Today, students will research several of these dances. Divide the students into small groups. Give each student a Dance Divisions GRA. Students should look for the following information in the article:

- How is the dance performed?
- When or where did the dance begin?
- How was it created?
- Is the dance based on any other dances?
- Did it inspire any other dances?

On a separate piece of paper, students should write a short paragraph about each of the three dances on their GRA. The paragraph should include two or three sentences describing how

each dance is performed. It should also include two or three sentences about the dance's history. Remind students to write the names of each person in their group at the top of the paper.

Evaluation

Give the students up to 5 points for each dance they accurately describe, for a total of 15 points.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading informational texts standards, grade 5 (RI 5.3; RI 5.7) and writing standards, grade 5 (W 5.4).

Dance Divisions GRA

Group 1: International Standard

The International Standard division includes waltz, tango, Viennese waltz, foxtrot, and quickstep. All these dances are performed in closed position. On a separate piece of paper, write a short paragraph about each of the following dances. Write two or three sentences describing how each dance is performed. Write two or three sentences about the dance's history.

1. Viennesse waltz
2. Quickstep
3. Foxtrot

Group 2: International Latin

The International Latin division includes cha-cha, samba, rumba, paso doble, and jive. These dances often have fancy footwork and elaborate costumes. On a separate piece of paper, write a short paragraph about each of the following dances. Write two or three sentences describing how each dance is performed. Write two or three sentences about the dance's history.

1. Samba
2. Rumba
3. Paso doble

Group 3: American Rhythm

The American Rhythm division includes cha-cha, rumba, swing, bolero, and mambo. All these dances except swing have their roots in Africa and Cuba. On a separate piece of paper, write a short paragraph about each of the following dances. Write two or three sentences describing how each dance is performed. Write two or three sentences about the dance's history.

1. Swing
2. Mambo
3. Bolero