

Instructional Unit Title: Explore Our Environments through Movement

The teacher may organize a community sharing event such as an open house for parents to share cultural dances that reflect their various traditional backgrounds so that students can begin to understand the breadth of diversity in the school community.

The teacher may highlight 3-4 cultures presented at a community event or from a collection of videos so students can explore cultural environments and the influences on movement styles from around the world.

The teacher may introduce 1-2 folk dances so the students can identify influential/common rhythms and connect basic steps to dances from around the globe.

The teacher may discuss relationships, styles and shapes as they would be interpreted in various cultural environments so students can create and share movement patterns.

The teacher may model construction of a dance map within a given environment (classroom, gym, playground) so the students can visualize ways to use a performance space/environment for a dance sequence.

The teacher may model the relationship between timing and intention so the students can refine movement patterns through changes of speed and rhythm.

The teacher may explore dance structures so students can consider how dances have a beginning, middle and end.

The teacher may model partnered dancing so that students can begin working together to assemble movement phrases.

The teacher may present various cultural music excerpts so the students can begin to explore the connections between music and dance in a cultural context.

(Post-Performance Task) Teacher may model performance reflection so that students can understand the significance of self-evaluation and its relationship to the creative process.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: As an expert 1st grade dance troupe, you have been selected to give a performance for your school that focuses on different cultural art forms! As a class you will learn about different cultural dances, their patterns, and the music they utilize! You will work with a small group to use your understanding of various cultural dance styles to select and create your dance. Your small groups will perform your dances for an upcoming school assembly!

This unit was authored by a team of Colorado educators. The unit is intended to support teachers, schools, and districts as they make their own local decisions around the best instructional plans and practices for all students. To see the entire instructional unit sample with possible learning experiences, resources, differentiation, and assessments visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/instructionalunitsamples>.