

Danza!

Lesson Plan for Elementary/Middle School Music

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

The primary focus of this lesson is to learn about Ballet Folklórico, its founding, and the significance of dance in Mexican culture. Students learn so much about listening to music through folk dance. In addition to demonstrating form, they also develop the skill of hearing phrase lengths and anticipating the switch to a new section. While students can master this skill over time, you may need to support them by prompting the switches in the music until students are able to do so without you!

As for the details, you know your students best. I know a music teacher who adapted this plan to use with her high school music class - they loved creating their own dance to a traditional folktale! I have various Mexican dances linked below that you can use to teach your students!

EDUCATION STANDARDS

MU:Re7.1

MU:Re7.2

MU:Pr4.1

MU:Cn10.1

MU:Pr4.2

MU:Cn11.1

OBJECTIVES

Students will

1. Connect to Mexican dance through the Musical Ancestries: Mexico Prezi, and through the book [Danza!: Amalia Hernández and El Ballet Folklórico de México](#) by Duncan Tonatiuh.
2. Identify musical form.
3. Perform a Mexican dance.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. [Danza!: Amalia Hernández and El Ballet Folklórico de México](#) by Duncan Tonatiuh.
2. The links below to support you in teaching students Mexican folk dances.

LESSON TIME

30 minute lesson per dance

ACTIVITY

Introduction

Read the students the book, [Danza!: Amalia Hernández and El Ballet Folklórico de México](#) by Duncan Tonatiuh.

CONNECT TO THE PREZI: There is more information about Mexican folk dance in the Dance section of the Prezi. You can share the information there about the Ballet Folklórico de México, and also watch samples of three different folk dances.

Music Classroom Activity

Here is a list of Mexican Folk dances and where you can find the dance directions for each. Teaching folk dance is an excellent way to introduce or reinforce musical form.

From [Teaching Movement & Dance: A Sequential Approach to Rhythmic Movement](#) by Phyllis S. Weikart

- **La Raspa p. 252**
- **Mexican Mixer p. 316**
- **Corrido p. 330**

[Click here](#) for Phyllis S. Weikart's YouTube channel.

[Click here](#) for a reference video of the folk dance, *Los Machetes*.

Extension

- Research Mexican folktales and, as a class, develop a dance to tell the story.
- Interview family members to inquire about the family's dances, traditions, and tales.
- Explore the Ballet Folklórico de México's YouTube channel to find other performances.

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