Content Standards
Social Studies

Students develop their understanding of how ideas and events from the past have shaped the world today.

Students develop their understanding of the role of consumers and the interaction of markets, resources and competition.

Early peoples developed unique civilizations. Several civilizations established empires with legacies influencing later peoples.

Dance

Discuss personal reactions to dances viewed or performed and consider how these are informed by cultural and social influences.

Perform dances from various global cultures, theatrical styles and historical periods.

Deepen personal awareness of the expressive body as it moves and feels in relation to the dance elements.

About the Program

Through the art of natyam or dance, students learn about life and culture in India. Dressed in traditional Indian costume, Sujatha Srinivasan uses graceful movements to help students discover a new world and enhance their understanding of other cultures. An understanding of Indian history and culture is emphasized through Sujatha’s explanation of her dances. Storytelling through hand gestures, mime, rhythmic movements, intricate footwork and melodic music makes this a unique art form to view and enjoy. Students will witness a 2000 year old Temple art form which showcases a living tradition and is a mirror to the culture and art of India.

Objectives

1. Understand the role of artists as educators and ambassadors of a different culture.
2. Connect the art and life of a Bharathanatyam dancer whose life so keenly reflects it.
3. Experience the unique quality of this dance form – which is the scientific technique, storytelling through gestures and facial expressions.
**Before the Program**

Teacher can place India historically, geographically and culturally with a small discussion.

Teacher can have students bring in an appropriate poem, a small story to be enacted.

Teacher can compare and contrast different dance forms of the world, their history, geography and culture through reading assignments and internet.

**After the Program**

Watch YouTube video of the recommended dance form to enhance comprehension.

Compare how other dance forms from different parts of the world communicate in their dance.

Encourage students to think about a live dance show they have attended and create awareness about other world cultures.

---

**Vocabulary**

**Diversity:** The state of having people who are different races or who have different cultures in a group or organization

**Bharathanatyam:** (Acronym) Bha- Bhava- Expression; Ra – Raga- Melody ;Tha- Thala- Rhythm.

**Aesthetic Experience:** denotes an essential mental state and is the dominant emotional theme of a work of art or the primary feeling that is evoked in the person that views, reads or hears such a work.

---

**About Sujatha Srinivasan**

With over 30 years of performing experience, **Sujatha Srinivasan** specializes in the highly stylized and vigorous classical Indian dance form called Bharathanatyam. One of the most popular and well established classical dance forms of India, Bharathanatyam consists of dance movements, mime, melodic music, rhythm, colorful costumes and jewelry. Sujatha’s skills as a choreographer, performer and teacher allow her to make this unique art form accessible, entertaining and enlightening to students while educating them about the Indian culture.

---

**Resources**

*Indian Classical Dance* by Kapila Vatsyayan

*Indian Classical Dance: Tradition in Transition*  
by Leela Venkataraman and Avinash Pasricha

Indian Dance Online  
[www.narthaki.com](http://www.narthaki.com)

*Parata Nattiyam = Bharata Natyam* by Sunil Kothari

Sujatha in Performance  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6sglYJD75M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6sglYJD75M)

---

**About the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning**

Through a balance of demonstration and audience participation, the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning teaching artist performances and workshops introduce students to an art form, support various curricular areas, and inject