Exploring Asia

Educator Guide

Enriching the lives of children and promoting creative learning by uniting arts and education.

About the Program

Enhance your students’ knowledge and understanding of other cultures through dance. Utilizing music and movement, the dancers of VERB Ballets take you to India and beyond while performing Heinz Poll’s famous choreography for Ravel’s “Bolero.” Students travel to China through the beautiful Tai Chi dance. The program finishes in the Philippines with a traditional dance called the Tinikling.

The mainly performance-based program teaches students that by understanding the diversity of other cultures they are able to practice tolerance for everyone and bring more joy and intelligence into their lives.

Objectives

1. **Discover** how dance is a universal language.
2. **Experience** three dances with movements influenced by Asian culture.
3. **Perform** the basic step to the traditional Philippine dance the Tinikling.

Content Standards

Social Studies

The kindergarten year is the time for children to begin to form concepts about the world beyond their own classroom and communities.

In grade six, students study the Eastern Hemisphere (Africa, Asia, Australia and Europe), its geographic features, early history, cultural development and economic change.

Develop concepts about how the world is organized spatially through beginning map skills.

Dance

Observe and explore dance forms from various cultures.

Learn developmentally appropriate cultural dances.

Relate specific dance concepts and vocabulary to meanings conveyed through dance.

Recognize and describe the role of dance in their lives and communities.
Before the Program
Talk about the culture, community and climate of India, China and the Philippines.
Show pictures of the different places showing the way they live.
Play music from the different cultures.
Ask students to wear comfortable clothing they can move in.

After the Program
Come up with a dance or create a story about your particular community.
Read haikus from Japan.
Bring in fabric and learn how to wrap like a sari.

Vocabulary
Community: A group of people who have the same interests, religion, race, etc.
Culture: The behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic or age group
Climate: The usual weather conditions in a particular place or region
Tinikling: A popular Philippine folk dance

About Verb Ballets
Verb Ballets ignites audience passion and participation in contemporary dance. Under the leadership of director Dr. Margaret Carlson, Verb Ballets strives to support and foster emerging talent, to present excellence in contemporary choreographers and to be a thought leader in cultivating dance appreciation and support through education and outreach programs. In growing audience appreciation for dance, Verb Ballets helps to make Ohio a national destination for the arts.

Resources
The Best World Music Albums for Children
worldmusic.about.com/od/worldmusic101/tp/kidsmusic.htm
Kid Songs and Rhymes of Asia
www.mamalisa.com/?t=e_cont&c=10
National Geographic Magazine

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 excitement and wonder into the school day.