Dance Grades 6-8 Choice: Dance Treasure Hunt

Watch a welcome video from Glenn Allen Sims and Linda Celeste Sims, Dance soloists from the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Objectives-
Students and their families will:
- Learn the Bunny Hop and other selected movements
- Create a dance
- Create a Floor Map for your dance
- Rehearse, perform and capture the dance using some form of technology
- View and assess the video before submitting

What You Will Need:
- 4 Sheets of Paper
- 8 Index Cards
- Pencil, pen, marker or crayon
- Recording device (ex. Phone, iPad, Tablet)

Instructions

Step #1: Gather Materials
- Gather all materials and display them in front of you and your family.
- Write each of these movements on a separate index card. These will be your dance ‘clue cards.’
• Bunny Hop
• Wiggle Your Bunny Tail
• Clap 3 Times
• Turn around like someone just called your name
• Search, search and pick up
• Your favorite dance move
• Burning Man
• Egg shape

Step #2: Watch and Learn the Bunny Hop

The Bunny Hop is a popular dance from the 1950’s, first invented by the students of Balboa High School in San Francisco. Bandleader Ray Anthony wrote a tune for it, and a dance craze was born. The Bunny Hop is very similar to a Finnish folk dance, the Jenka.

Learn and Practice the Bunny Hop

Step 1 - Stretch right foot out bring it back in
Step 2 - Stretch right foot out bring it back in
Step 3 - Stretch left foot out bring it back in
Step 4 - Stretch left foot out bring it back in
Step 5 - Hop forward
Step 6 - Hop backward
Step 7 - Hop forward
Step 8 - Hop forward
Step 9 - Hop forward

Step #3: Create Your Own Dance

Create your own moves for each of the other elements of your dance. Practice the dance.

• Bunny Hop
• Wiggle your bunny tail
• Clap 3 Times
• Turn around like someone just called your name
• Search, Search, Pick Up
• Add your favorite movie here
• Running Man
• Egg Shape

Now practice the entire dance with your family.

**Step #4: Choose 3 or 4 of the Action Words**

Now that you have all the parts of your dance ready, you will create a map for your dance.

First, draw a floor map of the room your will dance in on paper.

Make a circle on the map to show where you start. You will use this map to find the dance clue cards hidden by family members.
Every time you find a clue card, you will write its location on your map.

Step #5: The Treasure Hunt Begins!

Hide the clues:
- Get a family member to hide each card while you close your eyes or hide in another room. Be sure to close your eyes. No peeking!

Before beginning the hunt decide on a signal to begin the hunt, for example, “Ready!”

Begin the hunt:
- When the signal is given, begin the hunt...
- Hunt for the cards and create your dance map!
- Record your findings on the floor map.

Step #6: Make Your Dance
After the Hunt put all the dance moves together in the order you found the cards.
Use your floor map as a pathway map for your dance. Do each section where you found the card. Select age appropriate music that is fun to dance to.

Next, it’s your turn to hide the clue cards for another family member! Repeat steps #5 and #6 until everyone has created their own version of the dance.

**Step #7: Perform and Record the Dances**

Each person performs their dance, as another records the performance.

Watch the videos with your family. Choose one video to send to your teacher.

Discussion: Why did you choose the video? What did you enjoy about the project?