

## Title: Afro Haitian Dance

### Grade Level: K-5

**Objective:** Students will be exploring global culture through dance, and will be able to demonstrate an expanding interest and knowledge of cultural art forms around the world.



## Lesson Plan

**Materials:** Speaker or amplifier, Afro-Haitian drumbeat:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8BxFVZ45v8> (1:30) or

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgCQq37yyHI> (2:10)

**Opening Activity:** BUILD a Stretch Sequence- have students stand in a circle, and have each student demonstrate their favorite stretch. Notice if there are ANY parts of the body left out and demonstrate a stretch to fill in that body part. Create a sequence of stretches incorporating each student's favorite stretch, have EVERYONE go through the sequence and repeat each stretch, in order, in time together as a group. Run through the sequence 2 times.

### Core Activity:

- ASK if any of the members know about Haitian dance, and let them share what they know! Afro Haitian dance is a part of the culture of Haiti, an island nation in the Caribbean built by formerly enslaved people from all over the African continent. Much of the culture, including dance, is deeply rooted in African traditions.
- Demonstrate 4 steps of Afro Haitian Dance: 1. Two Step 2. Two Step with Turn. 3. Wave Body Step. 4. Sideways Cross step (High and Low).
- After teaching students these steps, divide students into 4 small groups and instruct them that they will be creating a choreography that uses all 4 of these steps to the drumbeat.
- They can choreograph the movements in any order they like, and each student can add 1 step of their own at the end.
- Give groups 10-20 minutes to design their choreography and then let each group perform 1 at a time. Make sure all students practice appropriate audience techniques while watching their fellow members perform.

**Reflection:** What challenges did you face in designing the group choreography? Is it easier to choreograph for just yourself- why or why not?