



STEP AFRİKA!

NOVEMBER 6-7, 2022



PARAMOUNT
EDUCATION

STEPPING AS A PERCUSSIVE DANCE FORM

Some dances require musical instruments for an accurate performance, other dance forms require that the body be used as the musical instrument. These are known as percussive dance forms. Just like stepping, the dancers create music as they move.

Tap dance and gumboot dance are great examples of percussive dance forms. Some dances also require vocal sounds to add to the

creation of the music. During the performance, you will hear Step Afrika! dancers make sounds with their bodies and their voices to add to the musical beat.



CREATE A POLYRHYTHM

Get a bunch of your friends together and divide them into 4 groups; A, B, C, and D. Each group should choose a different part of the body to create a sound. For example, one group can clap, another group can slap their knee, another group can stomp their feet, and the last group can repeat a word or sound.

	BEAT 1	BEAT 2	BEAT 3	BEAT 4
GROUP A	●	●	●	●
GROUP B	●		●	
GROUP C		●		●
GROUP D	● ●	● ●	● ●	● ●

Look at the chart above. Each dot represents one sound, and each number represents one beat.

Group A makes one sound on all 4 beats. Group B makes a sound on the first and third beat. Group C makes a sound on the second and fourth beat. Group D makes two sounds on each beat.

Each group should rehearse individually, counting the beats out loud and practicing until all group members can repeat three times accurately. **Finally, bring all four groups together to perform.**

After seeing the show, can you recall all the ways they used their body to create music? **List as many as you can below!** Can you come up with any of your own?

Clapping,

EXTRA ACTIVITY: Can you pick four sounds from your list and create your own polyrhythm? Map out the pattern of beats on some scratch paper to start!

Α Β
ALPHA [a] BETA [b]

Γ Δ
GAMMA [g] DELTA [d]

Ε Ζ
EPSILON [e] ZETA [dz]

Η Θ
ETA [ε:] THETA [t^h]

Ι Κ
IOTA [i] KAPPA [k]

Λ Μ
LAMBDA [l] MU [m]

Ν Ξ
NU [n] XI [ks]

Ο Π
OMICRON [o] PI [p]

Ρ Σ
RHO [r] SIGMA [s]

Τ Υ
TAU [t] UPSILON [ʏ]

Φ Χ
PHI [p^h] CHI [k^h]

Ψ Ω
PSI [sd] OMEGA [ː]

ORIGINS OF STEPPING

In the early 1900s, African American students who became members of college organizations called sororities and fraternities developed stepping. Stepping became a way that members could show pride and love for their organizations.



THE CORE VALUES OF STEPPING

There are 3 Core Values in stepping. The key to the left shows the Greek alphabet in grey, and the English letter equivalent in the yellow [brackets]. Using the key, write the English letter above each Greek letter to discover the 3 Core Values. The first one is easy!

1.

C
O M M I T M E N T

2.

W
T H A M O P K

3.

C
Δ Ι Σ I Π Λ I N E

Where have you used these Core Values in your own life?

Answer 1: Commitment: Being dedicated to something.
Answer 2: Teamwork: Working together to accomplish a goal.
Answer 3: Discipline: Having the self-control and focus necessary to achieve.

ART WITH AN IMPACT

The impact step can have is endless. For example, the standard of Family Engagement is crucial to the enrichment aspect of most step organizations. Family Engagement encourages parent chaperones, fundraising, transportation, etc. for youth. So step organizations are stepping, but also being a part of something bigger than themselves.

Art has an impact, even your art!

PROJECT BRAINSTORM

Use these guiding questions to help you brainstorm a project where you use art to make an impact!

What is something about your community that you want to change? What is your goal? This can be solving a whole problem or even just bringing awareness to an issue.

What artform will you use? This could be any artform like music, murals, fashion, even video games.

Describe what the artistic project is and how it relates to your goal.

After people experience this artistic project, what do you want them to think about?

STEP DANCE MOVES WORD MATCH

Match the drawing numbers to their corresponding dance move definitions.



BLADE

To make a BLADE, extend your fingers, and keep them close together. Straighten your arms so it does not bend at the elbow or wrist.

CLAP

Extend your fingers and slap your hands together. A CLAP can be done in front of you, behind your back, underneath your leg or even with someone else.

PUNCH

Extend your right arm forward and close your fist. Keep your arm straight. Place your left hand, fist closed, across your chest. This is the classic PUNCH.

KICK

Use one leg to leap in the air. With the other leg, KICK your foot back toward the floor behind you. You can KICK behind you or in front of you.

SPIN

When you turn around while stepping, it is called a SPIN. You can SPIN all the way around and back to the front.

CHANT

Used to vocally express team pride or convey confident messages. CHANTS heighten showmanship and identity.

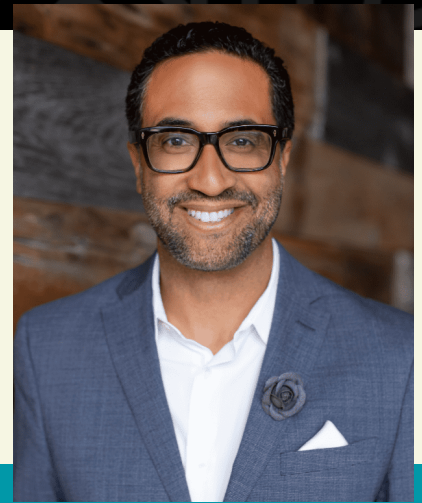
CALL & RESPONSE

A succession of phrases where the second phrase is a direct RESPONSE to the first phrase. Sometimes the RESPONSE is a continuation of the CALL to finish or complete it.

#1: Punch #2: Chant #3: Call & Response #4: Clap #5: Spin #6: Blade #7: Kick

ABOUT STEP AFRIKA!

Founded in 1994 by C. Brian Williams, Step Afrika! is the first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping. Under Mr. Williams' leadership, stepping has evolved into one of America's cultural exports, touring more than 60 countries across the globe, and the Company now ranks as one of the top ten African-American dance companies in the United States.



LEARN MORE AT STEPAFRIKA.ORG



Thank you to Devereaux Stone for helping create this study guide!

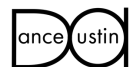
Devereaux Stone, founder of House of Devereaux Stone (HODS), has been a prominent cultural figure and change agent of Buffalo Drill Team culture. HODS currently provides quality youth dance and drill class/performance services in Buffalo, NY and Austin, TX (AISD). Classes consist of homework time, dance education, drill history, practice and application, music prep, prop making, transportation to events, performances, charity opportunities, art entrepreneurship sessions, and more.



LOCAL DANCE ORGANIZATIONS

Get more involved with local dance organizations in Austin! Here are a few to look out for:

- Austin Dance India
- Ballet Afrique
- Ballet Austin
- Dance Africa Fest
- Dance Another World
- Dance Austin Studio
- Lannaya Drum & Dance
- The Love of China School of Dance
- Roy Lozano's Ballet Folklorico de Texas





The Paramount Theatre

was built 107 years ago in 1915. Back then, Congress Avenue was a dirt road and the automobile was a new invention. As one of the first examples of early theatre architecture, the Paramount has been bringing Austin families together for generations. When you visit the theatre, you enter a place that feels exciting and welcoming. From your seat, you can almost reach out and touch the performers on stage! Many famous people have performed at the Paramount. From magician Harry Houdini to the premier of the original Batman movie, the Paramount and its audiences have seen it all over the past 100 years...here's to the next century!

YAMATO

THE DRUMMERS OF JAPAN



MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2023

Paramount Education

We inspire the intellect and imagination of young people by providing opportunities to **experience, perform, and learn** through the arts. We can't wait to see you again at our theatre or in our school programs! Paramount Education programs are made possible through generous donations from our community. If you are interested in finding out more or want to make a contribution, please reach out to Krystal Parsons at kparsons@austintheatre.org. Thank you!

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