

Teaching Music Through Movement

Entry Dance

- “Blue Da Ba Dee” – Eiffel 65

What Can Movement Teach?

- Procedures
- Steady beat
- Phrasing
- Expression
- Responding
- Patterns
- Form
- Concepts

Play Party

- Bobolinka or Farmer’s Dairy Key

Responding to Texture

- “Mahna Mahna” – Cake

Free Movement with Manipulatives

- “Crystallize” – Lindsey Stirling

Pattern Song

- “Cotton Eye Joe” – Rednex

Energy Buster

- “Popcorn” – Crazy Frog

Form Song

- “Witch Doctor” – Alvin & The Chipmunks

Let’s Choreograph a Song!!!

- “We Are” – Ice Age: Continental Drift

Tennis Ball Concepts

- Musical Terminology

Resources:

- Parachutes and Ribbons and Scarves, Oh My! By Artie Almeida
- The Book of Beginning Circle Games by John Feierabend
- 120 Singing Games and Dances for Elementary Schools by Lois Choksy and David Brummitt
- Jump Jim Joe by New England Dancing Masters Productions
- The Book of Movement Exploration by John Feierabend
- Listening Fun by Dan Fee
- More Listening Fun by Dan Fee and Denise Gagne

Blue Da Ba Dee Dance

Opening – Walk into room and around the circle (one to three times around the circle depending on how well the group follows the leader), Pat legs through the first chorus until “I have a blue house...”

“I have a blue house...” – Boxer Bounces (hands in fists up at cheekbones, dodge left and right while feet stay planted) for eight counts of 4 through “I have a girlfriend, and she is so blue.”

“Blue are the people...” – forward punches on the beat for eight counts of 4 to the chorus

Chorus – alternating fingers point to the ceiling for eight counts of 4, alternating fingers point to the floor for eight counts of 4, pat legs eight counts of 4 on synthesizer-sounding eighth notes

“I have a blue house...” – Boxer Bounces (hands in fists up at cheekbones, dodge left and right while feet stay planted) for eight counts of 4 through “I have a girlfriend, and she is so blue.”

“Blue are the people...” – forward punches on the beat for eight counts of 4 to the chorus

Final Choruses – alternating fingers point to the ceiling for eight counts of 4, alternating fingers point to the floor for eight counts of 4, pat legs eight counts of 4 on “blue his house...”, one-handed disco for eight counts of 4, two-handed disco for eight counts of 4, “peace sign over the eyes” to the end over the synthesizer-sounding eighth notes

Mahna Mahna

– from the album, *For the Kids*

Opening – groove however you feel to the opening drum beats

“Mahna Mahna” chorus – cumbia step (cross back, rock, together)
with alternating legs

Interlude 8 to 12 beats – each person does a simple motion that the group repeats

OR

1st time – twirl your lasso

“Mahna Mahna” chorus – cumbia step (cross back, rock, together)
with alternating legs

2nd time – ballerina pirouette

“Mahna Mahna” chorus – cumbia step (cross back, rock, together)
with alternating legs

3rd time – Egyptian and Queen of Sheba

“Mahna Mahna” chorus – cumbia step (cross back, rock, together)
with alternating legs

4th time – Ballet pliés

“Mahna Mahna” chorus – cumbia step (cross back, rock, together)
with alternating legs

5th time – twirl arms in front of hips

“Mahna Mahna” chorus – cumbia step (cross back, rock, together)
with alternating legs

“Mahna Mahna” chorus – cumbia step (cross back, rock, together)
with alternating legs

Instrumental Break – flick hands twice left, right, left, right, over and over again

“Mahna Mahna” chorus – cumbia step (cross back, rock, together)
with alternating legs

Cotton-Eyed Joe Dance

Set up – Students find a safe dancing space around the room facing the front

Opening 4 measures - bounce knees to the beat

Dance pattern on the beat – heel (to the front), heel (to the front), toe (to the back), toe (to the back), heel, slap foot in front of knee with opposite hand, heel, slap foot behind knee with opposite hand, step to the side, clap, step to the other side, clap, turn around swinging an imaginary lasso above head for 4 beats.

This pattern begins with the Teacher Right Foot (student left), and then switches to the Teacher Left Foot on the second pattern, continuing to switch throughout the entirety of the song.

Witch Doctor

Intro – flow hands

Bridge – step touch

Verse – pat knees, clap hands

Chorus – the Monkey! (fists pound up and down in front)

Br –

V –

Ch –

Mid 8 –hands move high to low, low to high and body sway

V –

Br –

Ch –

Ch – (can change move if arms are tired 😊)