

Dances of Mexico

Read and Learn!



Jarabe Tapatio (The Mexican Hat Dance)

Overview:

Dances of Mexico honor the Mexican culture and represent the joys of life. Mexico is a country with many regions. Each region embraces its own culture which can often be diverse. When the Spanish arrived in Mexico, they brought with them European influences. Africa, Asia, and other European immigrants added to the Mexican culture. Some Mexican dances reflect history, while other focus on religion, culture, and folklore.

The Jarabe Tapatio is often referred to as the National Dance of Mexico. This popular dance is a dance which represents courtship. The costumes for the Mexican Hat Dance are colorful and traditional. During the dance, the man tosses his hat on the ground. He kicks, hops, and slides around his sombrero. Finally his partner bends forward to pick up his hat. The man then kicks his leg over his partner's head.



Dance of the Deer

The Dance of the Deer is a traditional folk dance reflecting the early traditions and culture of Mexico. The dancers portray the characters of hunters and deer. Costumes in the deer dance are elaborate, with large masks being worn throughout the performance. The dancer who performs the deer wears an intricate headdress and moves and jumps in deer like motions. Hunters wear bells and wooden masks. The Dance of the Deer is meaningful to the Mexican culture because the deer was at one time a main source of food in the area.



Mexican Ballet — Folklorico

Ballet Folklorico is a dance with some characteristics of ballet, such as pointed toes and large sweeping movements. However, the dance is also a very different form of ballet than seen in other countries in Europe and America. Male dancers usually wear black slacks, sombreros, ties and belts. Women wear traditional full, colorful skirts with boots. The traditional Ballet Folklorico dancers are accompanied by guitars, trumpets, harps, and violins.



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What I learned!



My **FAVORITE** dance of Mexico was (and why):

Drawing:

One **FUN FACT** I learned about the dances of Mexico:



A **QUESTION** I have about the dances of Mexico would be...

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Explore Mexican Dance!



Directions: For homework, research Mexican dances. Choose to either write about a dancer or style of dance. Fill out the questions below.

What did you research?

Drawing:

Three **FUN FACTS** I learned from my research!

1.

2.

3.

Dance Activity!

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Directions: Watch the video clip and learn how to do the Mexican Hat Dance!

