



Recommended Year Level: R-6 (with modifications) & 7-10 | **Duration:** 45-60 Minutes | Small groups (5-6 people per group)

AIM

The activity is based on cultural storytelling. Students will create their own story-based choreography and movement sequences using imagery and shapes to devise their cultural story dance.

Resources

- 1 x A3 size poster (per group)
 - Markers / Pens
 - Cultural puzzle pieces
 - Gymnasium / studio space
 - Music - suitable to your chosen genre / style / age group
- Suggestion: *Incantation - (Quidam) Cirque du Soleil*

Learning Outcomes

- Critical and creative thinking skills
- Relationship building / peer collaboration
- Literacy skills
- Spatial / body awareness
- Fundamental Movement Skills
- Cultural awareness
- Problem Solving
- Exploring the elements of dance / choreographic devices

TASK

- Start by allocating the cultural puzzle pieces to each student in the class (see activity sheet).
- Students will need to find the members of their group by matching their puzzle pieces together.
- Once all the groups are formed, begin discussion about where in the world they think they might be.
- Teachers can ask questions: *What clues did you have that helped you to discover where you were?*
- Each group will discuss what they know about their cultural place.
- Next - Teacher asks questions relating to storytelling. *What do all stories have?* (i.e. beginning, middle, end, characters, drama or climatic events etc) - record responses on a board.
- Play the chosen piece of music and ask students to LISTEN ONLY to stimulate their creative thinking and ideas.
- Next - Teacher asks questions: *What did you hear? What kind of sounds did the music have?*
- Explain to students that they will now create their own story as a group. Students will write their story using the A3 paper.
- Let them brainstorm their ideas and then explain that they will need to perform their story as a dance. Students may write words or draw images or symbols and even create a narrative of their story. Let the ideas flow!
- Students must create their dance in relation to the culture / country of their puzzle.
- Guidelines: Students must begin their dance with a strong tableaux (image or freeze frame). This is where you can link to knowledge of stage presence, posture and how we communicate meaning with our bodies through movement in dance.
- Students will create their story dance sequence, rehearse and perform it as a group.

Performance / Reflection

Group Performance : This can be peer-to-peer in class. If short on time smaller groups can perform their cultural story dance to each other and then swap over. Ask reflective questions to gain insight into your students knowledge and understanding or use reflective journaling / discussion.

NOTES

- Advance students by adding choreographic devices that are appropriate to their developmental age (Cannon, Unison, Levels)
- Check that students have chosen appropriate themes in their stories (as death and tragedy are always popular themes)
- Younger students are great at storytelling - it comes naturally! If students struggle - work with them to help stimulate their ideas.