

CHINESE LION DANCE



Prep - Year 6 MUSIC CURRICULUM GUIDES

General Capability: Intercultural Understanding

Intercultural understanding develops students' abilities to communicate and empathise with others and to analyse intercultural experiences critically.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

When experiencing arts, we make connections between different cultures, places and times.

PYP Arts scope and sequence, p18

OBJECTIVE

To learn about Chinese Lion Dance and ancient Chinese culture.

RESOURCES

- Teacher laptop and a display screen with access to the internet
- Room for students to try dance moves
- Laptops or tablets for students to research lion costumes

BACKGROUND - 75 min

Chinese Lion Dance is a form of traditional dance in Chinese culture and other Asian countries.

It can be dated back to the Han dynasty 1800 years ago. During the dance, performers mimic a lion's movements in a lion costume. This art form is believed to bring good fortune, prosperity and longevity. Further details are shown below:

- Usually performed during the Lunar New Year, other traditional, cultural and religious festivals, etc.
- Normally operated by two dancers: one controls the head and the other one forms the rear end of the lion
- Commonly performed to a vigorous drumbeat, and its basic movements can be found in Chinese martial arts (kung fu)
- Accompanied by the music of tanggu (Chinese drum), cymbals and gongs .

WATCH, LISTEN AND DANCE - 20 min

Encourage students to try some Chinese Lion Dance moves! Watch the video below to let students have a better grasp of what is involved, then sections of it can be played again so that they can try it themselves.

[John Learns to Lion Dance](#)

Descriptions of the moves can be found at:

0:54 Horse Stance

1:27 Dragon Stance

2:19 Cat Stance

EXTENSION (Year 3 - 6): - 20 min

Divide students into four small groups. Each group chooses one topic from the list below about lion costumes and does some research on it. Then, the groups present their findings using PowerPoint.

1. What do lion costumes consist of? What are they made of?
2. How are lion heads and lion costumes made?
3. Various kinds of lion costumes in different places
4. What does each colour on the lion costumes represent in Chinese culture?
5. What do lions and lion costumes symbolise in Chinese culture?



Southern Chinese Lion Costume