

Ethiopian Dance and Culture



PREP - YEAR 6 MUSIC - CURRICULUM GUIDES

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING GUIDE

- Recognising culture and developing respect
- Reflecting on intercultural experiences and taking responsibility
- Interacting and empathising with others

OBJECTIVE

Learn some background about Ethiopia and the Gurage Music Dance

RESOURCES

1. Computers with access to wifi
2. Room for students to dance

BACKGROUND - 5 min

Ethiopia is a country in East Africa, with ancient archaeological digs dating back 3 million years. According to Translators Without Borders, there are more than 46 languages spoken there, with Amharic being the government's official language.

FLAG - 5 min

- The green band represents Ethiopia's fertile land
- The yellow, hope, peace and harmony of its people
- The red, its bravery and sacrifice paid to defend and preserve the country
- The star represents the unity of all Ethiopian people



ACTIVITIES – (Prep to Year 2) 30 min

[Ethiopia Gurage Music Dance 2019 | Ethiopian Day Festival Minnesota](#)

Refer to video above for all practice cues and to watch through.

Show students how to do these simple Gurage dance steps:

1. 0:20 Step from side to side, swinging hands from side then forward to clap every second beat in front
2. 0:33 Bring hands together to touch own fingertips at bellybutton height, then point bellybutton - R shoulder, bellybutton - L shoulder on the beat
3. 0:33 Add a sidestep in the direction hands are pointing
4. 0:33 In partners, try steps 2 and 3 moving in the opposite direction to them

ACTIVITIES – (Year 3 to Year 6) 30-60 min

In addition to the dance steps above, show students these, checking as needed with the video at the cues:

1. 0:06 Step forward on ball of R foot then do a quick hop back on that foot and kick leg behind. Repeat on other side.
2. 0:06 Add the hands: bring to a point and push down in a quick or 'ti-ti' rhythm.
3. 0:24 In a 'slow-quick-quick' or 'ta ti-ti' rhythm hop once on L foot, twice on R facing a partner
4. 0:24 Add the hands: bring to a point and point both low to L side of partner for slow beat, and higher twice to R side of partner for repeated quick beats.

Other parts of the dance that students may wish to learn:

1. 0:42 bobbing section
2. 0:56 shoulder shaking section (getting to know each other)
3. 1:21 legs kicking in front and hands moving forward and back

EXTRA RESOURCE

Head to Sound Infusion <https://soundinfusion.io/> where there are 10 lesson plans for years 1 – 10 and students can explore instruments on an interactive map from over 100 countries before heading to the studio to create their own musical arrangements.