

Teaching Geometry through Dance

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For the complete presentation and additional materials, check out the google drive listed here!

<https://tinyurl.com/NCTMdanceandgeometry>

 *Dancing Through School!*

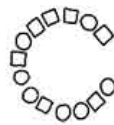
Dance Formations & Positions

Formations: *No specific gender order*

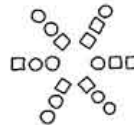
Single Circle



Open Circle



Wheel

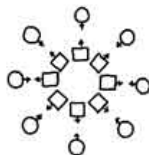


Formations: *Partners*

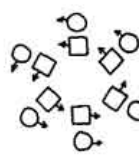
Single Circle of Couples



Double Circle:
Partners Facing



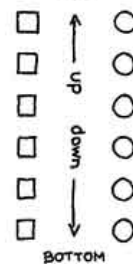
Double Circle:
Partners Side by Side



Key: □ = boys / men
○ = girls / ladies



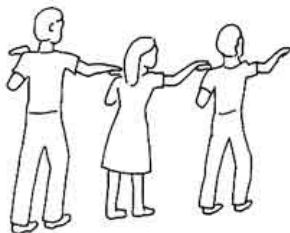
TOP



BOTTOM
Longways Set

Handholds:

Front Shoulder Hold



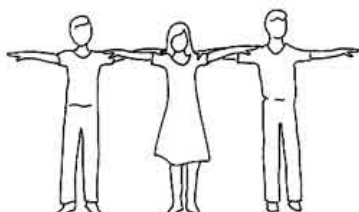
Promenade Hold



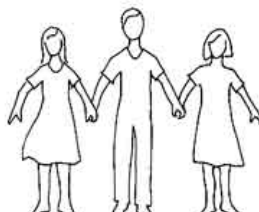
Two Hands Joined



T Position



V Position



W Position



Illustrations by George Hoffecker

Helpful Hints to get started Folk Dancing!

1. Teach how to find a partner

- Children do not know how to find a partner politely. You will have to teach it explicitly.
- “Will you be my partner?” “Yes, thank you.” OR “I’m so sorry I already have a partner.”
- Those who still need a partner raise their hand and look for another hand in the air.

2. DO NOT GENDER THE DANCES!!!! (this is in all caps because it’s super important!!)

- There is no pedagogical reason to gender your dances.
- Much of the material out there has dances that say boys on the left girls on the right in the directions. It is not needed for any reason other than outdated gender norms.
- If you need to label partners, call them “suns” and “moons” or “X’s” and “Y’s”. Whatever is needed for the formation that works for you.

3. Chunk it out

- Folk dancing might be completely new to many of your students. You will need to chunk it out and scaffold the formations and moves. If you need help with the task analysis, email me and I will walk you through it step by step.

4. Don’t listen to them when they complain

- I know from experience that they will complain about dancing saying that it is “lame” or “boring”. Do not listen to them! They’re children and they need to move to learn. Keep dancing and they will grow to like it and even ask for it!

5. It is difficult for children to visualize formations.

- Birds eye view is really hard for kids.
- Take photos from above to help them understand what the formation actually looks like.
- Use lots of visual cues to help students understand what is needed.

6. Don’t stress if it’s loud and messy!

- It’s a social dance! It’s supposed to be loud with children laughing, shouting, hooting, and hollering. As long as everyone is being safe and respectful, allow that joy to shine through.
- It’s going to look AWFUL when you start. Even adult dances look terrible. It’s not supposed to be a polished finished product. We are here to learn and have fun so get comfy with chaos.

7. Cite your Standards and the Research

- If you are dealing with reluctant administrators, make sure to cite your standards.
- The National Core Arts Standards for Dance can be found here:

<http://www.nationalartsstandards.org/customize-handbook>

- If you need help finding research showing why arts integration and movement help, not hinder, the learning process, send me an email and I will send you a mountain of material.