

Arts Assessment For Learning

DANCE — 6TH, 7TH AND 8TH GRADES

SYNOPSIS: AFRICAN DANCE UNIT

My 6th grade dance students worked in groups of 4 to choreograph and perform an eight-count pattern that depicted farming, hunting, housework, or fishing. Students learned the skills of working cooperatively to create, practice, perform, and revise. They also self-assessed as a group using a checklist in order to make and implement decisions to improve their dances. In the end, students reflected on the process and experience of working collaboratively to create, revise, and perform a dance.

Inquiry

Does self-assessment using a criteria checklist help students improve the movement quality of their original dance phrases?

Strategies

A student-generated checklist of criteria stating the characteristics of exciting and clear movements, self-assessment within small groups, and teacher feedback during class practice

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