



CLIBURN IN THE CLASSROOM

DIZZY FINGERS

Ragtime's influence on American culture



CLASS ACTIVITY: Animal Dances

Grade Level(s): 2-5

Subject Areas: Music, History, Social Studies



OBJECTIVE

In the early 1900s, many dances were given animal names to make them more popular. Through the experience of two of these dances, students will better understand the musical style of the time period and its place in culture and society.

SPACE AND EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Internet access and a promethean/smart board or overhead projector is needed for this activity. Adequate space is necessary to safely dance. Students will need a printer and scissors.

MUSIC TO EXPLORE

NEWMAN *You've Got a Friend in Me*

BERLIN *The Dance of the Grizzly Bear*

ACTIVITY

1. Begin this activity by watching the two step-by-step dance videos listed below. Have the class follow along with a partner.
Foxtrot: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iMyUFYX0uCc>
Grizzly Bear: <https://www.pbs.org/video/masterpiece-downton-abbey-scene-from-episode-2/>
2. Once the basic steps are mastered, allow the students time to dance to the suggested music listed above. Play *You've Got a Friend in Me* for the Foxtrot, and *Dance of the Grizzly Bear* for the Grizzly Bear.
3. Then allow students time to research other animal dances. Have them print pictures of the animals and write their own descriptions of the dances. Some options are Turkey Trot, Horse Trot, Bunny Hug, Kangaroo Hop, Duck Waddle, or Chicken Scratch.
4. Have students decorate the music class bulletin board with their findings and descriptions. Encourage them to include things like clothes that would be worn, places these would be danced, or music that would be played in order to give historical and cultural context to the dances.