



Children's Museum
of Atlanta

Museum On-the-Go: Dance Around the World

PRE-EXPERIENCE ACTIVITIES:

Pre-K through 3rd Grade

Yoga for Kids

Have the class warmed-up and ready to dance by teaching them some animal yoga. Have the students spread out and give themselves lots of room. Yoga is an exercise all about inner peace. Have the students do some big, deep breaths in and out. Mention that because we are about to read a story about animals, we are going to do animal yoga. These exercises work well as both a pre-activity, but also can be used to help get the wiggles out or get students grounded during regular school days.

- **Flamingo:** Have the kids raise one arm in the air like a flamingo's neck. Ask them to stand up straight and then raise one leg and balance like a flamingo.
- **Elephant:** Have the kids clasp their hands together, and have them bend so that their arms are near the ground like an elephant's trunk. Ask them to make an elephant's trumpet noise and then take a few deep breaths.
- **Giraffe:** Ask the kids to lunge one leg forward while sticking the other leg back. The front leg should be bent and the torso should be slightly sideways. Now ask them to lift their back arm and arch it over their head like a giraffe neck; they can move their hand to imitate the chomping motions of a giraffe enjoying some leafy greens.
- **Butterfly:** Have the kids sit on the ground with their feet touching and legs pulled as close to their body as possible. Have them rest their hands in their laps and take a few deep breaths.
- **Cat/Cow:** If the kids are able to kneel on the ground, ask them to get on all fours. They can arch their backs and meow like cats, then lower their backs and moo like cows. Take a deep breath in and out in each pose.



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POST-EXPERIENCE ACTIVITIES:

Pre-K through Kindergarten

- Have the children create the different animals they saw in the book *Giraffes Can't Dance*. They could simply draw them on paper, or you could give them different cutout shapes squares, circles etc. and have them glue them on construction paper to recreate the animals.
- Have the children look for the continent of Africa on a globe or map and locate where these animals might all live together.

1st Grade through 3rd Grade

- **Around the World Playlist**
 - Create a playlist of songs for the dances all the animals did in *Giraffes Can't Dance*. The ChaCha, the Tango, the Waltz, Rock 'n Roll etc. Then as you play each song, have the children show you how they think the dances would go based on the music.
- **Dance & Emotions**
 - Have the students review the main plot points of *Giraffe's Can't Dance*. What are the main actions that happened? How did Gerald feel throughout the book: brave, happy, sad, and/or embarrassed? Were his friends kind to him? Have a discussion with your students about how they might act if a friend did something wrong – would they laugh, or be supportive of their friend?

Age Adaptations for 3rd Grade through 6th Grade

- For older children there is a great digital download on the website: www.teacherspayteachers.com called *Dance Around the World*. It is a digital download and good for grades 3, 4, 5 and 6. It comes with worksheets and the children learn 18 different dances from around the world.



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VOCABULARY WORDS

Savanna: a large grassy area with a few trees that are far apart

Awkward: without physical skill

Beauty: the qualities of a person or a thing that give pleasure to the senses or to the mind

Grace or Graceful: showing beauty in form or action, as in dance

Elegant: showing beauty or refinement

Clumsy: moving in an awkward way, falling, or bumping into things

Swaying: little movements back and forth

Entranced: to look at with wonder and amazement

Rhythmic: a regular repeated pattern of beats, sounds, activity, or movements

Expressive: showing emotions or making something known

Continent: a large solid area of land that is divided into countries. There are 7 different continents on Earth and over 195 countries.

Festival: A gathering of people to celebrate something.

Celebrate: To do something special or enjoyable for an important event, occasion, holiday, etc.

Traditional: An event or activity that is handed down from age to age.



FULTON COUNTY
arts & culture

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