



International Folk Dance and Culture

Artist: Carol Neman



Carol Neman

Grade Level:

K-Adult

About the Artist:

Carol has traveled, studied and performed international folk dance in Asia, Africa, East and West Europe and the Americas. She has had extensive training in dance of all kinds and graduated from Cornell University with a degree in Child Development and Family Studies .Since 1965 she has taught folk dance to all ages at City University of New York, Columbia University, Clatsop Community College, public schools, the Job Corps, community events and professional conferences, as well as in foreign countries. She is fluent in Hebrew and French and familiar with several other languages and alphabets. Carol uses movement, music, storytelling and humor to excite imagination and curiosity; to plant seeds of tolerance; to stimulate awareness, appreciation and respect for the ways people of diverse cultures express themselves through dance, music, crafts and clothing; and to share understanding of how cultural values affect all of these including our own attitudes and judgments.

Objectives:

- To introduce dance as a joyful, noncompetitive, easily accessible means of personal expression, social interaction and universal communication
- To foster a deeper understanding and respect for one's own and others' cultures, dispel stereotypes and fear, raise awareness and interrupt discrimination based on ignorance; and to

share understanding of how cultural values affect all of these, including our own attitudes and judgments

- To teach dances which foster self confidence, cooperation, coordination, ability to listen and respond to new music and rhythms, social skills and grace
- To bring the two-dimensional map to life, exciting students about history, geography, foreign languages, global and social studies

Activities:

- Introduce folk dance as one of the oldest forms of communication and recreation throughout the world, using the body and movement as our common language.
- Teach international dances building a foundation of steps and patterns; guide students in problem solving to create their own dances.
- Wear traditional clothing and show photographs from a different area of the world each day; discuss the culture, geography, history, recent political developments (age appropriate), role of functional art; teach the local greeting.
- Display a Traveling Museum of folk art and hand crafts collected in the artist's travels including toys, dolls, and musical instruments; encourage and inform students how to create their own.
- Personal slide show focusing on daily life, folk culture and environment. Choose from Asia, Africa, Lapland, Eastern Europe & Mediterranean, and Latin America.
- Introduce different languages and alphabets (e.g. Cyrillic, Arabic, Tibetan, and Hebrew). Include discussion of immigrants, old and new. Teach the reading and writing of Hebrew (optional).
- Guide students in preparing a high quality performance of traditional and original folk dances.

Workshop Size Limits:

- **Dance and language classes:** 10-25 students. Double classes suitable for slide shows and art display. Four sessions required for traditional dances; six to eight sessions for traditional and original dances developed by students.

Special Equipment:

- NA

Space Needed:

- Reliable cassette player with full volume, slide projector, chalkboard, world map or globe

Connections to the Curriculum

- Language arts, drama, dance, physical education, history and social studies