

Creative Dance Lesson Plan on Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Grade: 1st-2nd

Length: 35 minutes

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Student Learning Outcome: The students will demonstrate understanding of the vocabulary in the song "Row, row, row your boat" through improvisation inspired by word meanings and a solo composition.

Equipment Needed: Hand Drum; CD player; creative dance music

Utah English Language Arts

Standard 6: (Vocabulary): Students learn and use grade level vocabulary to increase understanding and read fluently.

Objective 2: Use multiple resources to learn new words by relating them to known words and/or concepts.

Utah Fine Arts Core – Dance

Standard 3: The student will improvise, create, perform, and respond to movement solutions in the art form of dance.

Objective 1: Explore the process of making a dance.

Objective 2: Create and discuss movement solutions derived from movement exploration.

Standard 4: The student will understand and demonstrate dance in relation to its historical and cultural origins

Objective 3: Make connections between dance and other disciplines.

Behavioral Expectations: (2 minutes)

We have two rules for class today:

1. Always keep space around yourself. Never touch anyone else, the walls, or the steps unless I ask you to.
2. When the music or the drumming stops, you must freeze!

Let's practice. When the music starts, gallop around the room, but when it stops you must freeze! Don't move even one eyelash!

Experience/Identify: (8 minutes)

Sing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" together as a class. Explore movements that could be inspired by the words.

- What does row mean? Is rowing easy? Or does it take a lot of strength? Try rowing through the space. Can you row up high and down low?
- What about gently? How can you move gently? Can you run gently? Twist gently? Try rolling gently.

Explore/Investigate: (12 minutes)

- For "stream", students will move across the floor, choosing how they can move like a stream. This may include tumbling over rocks, swimming through water,

being water with a boat on their back, spinning through a whirlpool, being stuck in the mud at the bottom, or going over a waterfall. Challenge students to be creative and find several ways they can move like a stream. Continue going across the floor until each student has explored several movement possibilities within the idea of a stream.

- Who can raise their hand and tell me what "merrily" means? It means to do something in a happy or joyful way. On the count of three, make a frozen, happy shape. When the music starts, show me how you can move that shape through the space.

Create/Perform: (10 minutes)

- Discuss dreams that students have for their future. How might they show that dream in dance? Create a short solo (or duet - in partners) that has a beginning, middle, and end and shows us what your dream is.
- Half the students in the class will perform their solos/duets while the other half watches; then switch places.

Connect/Analyze: (3 minutes)

- What dreams did you see your classmates dancing? Could you tell what they were dancing about from their frozen shape? Have you ever danced "Row, row, row your boat" before? Did you think we could use the words in that song to create such an interesting dance?