



Creative Curriculums

DANCING THE PATTERNS

CELETA HICKMAN

Recommended for Pre-K

PA Standards Aligned:

AL.2.PK.D: Recognize and extend simple patterns

2.3.PK.A.1: Identify and describe shapes

9.1.M.PK.B: Respond to different types of music and dance through participation and discussion



PITTSBURGH CULTURAL TRUST ARTS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
803 Liberty Ave | Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Telephone 412-471-6079 | **Fax** 412-471-6077
TrustArts.org/education

LEARN A PATTERN DANCE

Watch "Kente Colors Storytime" with Celeta Hickman at: www.TrustArts.org/CreativeConnections

1. Lead students in singing a song they are familiar with, that is rhythmic and repetitive (patterns) to get them warmed up (sing at least three times through).
2. Then lead them, using the call and response style, in singing "Effua Put the Fufu On!" (lyrics and gestures below) Sing this song at least three times using call and response so children can catch on to the lyrics and begin to hear the pattern. Next time you can sing it altogether.

Effua* Put the Fufu On (Included gestures while you sing)

An Akan Manners Song

Source: Asante Ghana

Effua put the fufu on (place food on the table)

Effua put the fufu on

Effua put the fufu on

It's time to eat! (shake your hips)

It's time to eat!

Ekow took it off again (take the food off the table)

Ekow took it off again

Ekow took it off again

And ran away (turn in a circle)

And ran away

*Effua: pronounced Afua

CREATE YOUR OWN PATTERN DANCE

1. Sing "Effua Put the Fufu On!" to open your session (lyrics in "Activate" lesson).
2. Learn about fufu (a large starchy tuber called a yam, much like potatoes that is a staple in West African food). Have students share if they've tried fufu, yams, or potatoes.



3. Create a three part dance to music of your choice. Have the students create their own pattern dance with their head, arms, hands, hips or legs. Ask them to choose three movements, each movement with a different body part. Now have them perform it and repeat it three times.
4. Allow students to take turns being the leader and have them teach the rest of the class their dance.

DANCING SHAPES

Materials:

Up to five colored pieces of construction paper cut into shapes. Make three sets of each shape.



1. Take a moment to watch Celeta Hickman read "Kente Colors" at www.TrustArts.org/CreativeConnections. Or if you have the book, read it aloud. Notice all of the shapes, patterns, and colors throughout the story.

Students can also look at all the shapes, patterns, and colors on their clothes and around their house.



2. Discuss how shapes look and describe their attributes (smooth sides, corners, curved sites, etc.).
3. Now have children demonstrate shapes with their bodies, using their arms, legs, hands, or feet.
4. Have children choose three shapes and put them in a sequential order. Now lay out the same series of shapes two more times in a line to create a pattern.
5. Now dance the pattern! Have the children make each shape with their body and encourage them to dance their sequence of shapes.

DANCE ALL AROUND!

1. Encourage children to create a three part dance that they can teach to their whole family. They can dance to music of their choice.
2. Have the children go on a "pattern hunt" in and around their homes. Ask them count how many patterns they can find. See if they can find patterns that match.
3. Teach children how to lead their families in singing and dancing the "Effua Put the Fufu On!" song and dance.

Effua Put the Fufu On (Included gestures while you sing)

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