

Sample Content Outline – The Culture and Classical Dance of India

1. Brief overview of the diversity of cultures in India
2. Brief overview of Hinduism and its place in Indian culture and the arts
3. Demonstration of the ancient classical dance form Bharatanatyam
 - a. History of the art form
 - b. Cultural significance of the dance form
 - c. Evolution of the dance form and its place in modern times
4. Participatory demonstration of expressing stories through the dance form
 - a. Creating the rhythms
 - b. Learning the gestures
 - c. Expressing the stories
5. Exploring our commonalities and universal values through dance
 - a. Exploring universal values
 - b. Exploring morality stories from different traditions
 - 1) Jataka Tales from the Buddhist tradition
 - 2) Panchatantra Stories from the Hindu tradition
 - 3) Folk Tales from India
 - 4) Aesop's Fables from America
 - c. Performing the tale
 - 1) Writing a short tale based on a common moral or universal value
 - 2) Using the gestures from Bharatanatyam to tell the story
 - 3) Expressing the story through dance
6. Dialogue with teachers about the quality and quantity of cross-cultural and cross-curricular sharing and understanding that can be achieved through art forms such as the ancient literature and classical dance explored in this workshop, connecting with common core and education standards such as those listed below:
 - a. Expressing emotion through facial expression and verbal dialogue
 - b. Interpreting story plots and meaning through awareness of body language
 - c. Developing oral language and listening skills through storytelling
 - d. Comparing and contrasting characters in different tales
 - e. Identifying setting, characters and plot in a story
 - f. Identifying sequence of events in a story
 - g. Identifying similes, metaphors, personification and hyperbole in context
 - h. Identifying the effect of sound within context, such as rhyme, repetition, alliteration, etc.
 - i. Assessing how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a story
 - j. Identifying numerical patterns in the rhythm of storytelling through dance
 - k. Connecting stories to environmental contexts, such as degradation of the environment