

Exploring Spatial Elements

Lesson Designer: Diana F. Green ©2020

Estimated time: 15 minutes

Grade level: K-12

Enduring Understanding:

Dancers use spatial awareness, acquired by intentional focus on personal space and external shapes as they move.

Essential Question:

How do dancers move through space aesthetically and safely?

Arts Discipline Standards: Dance

Alabama Anchor Standard 4: Select, analyze, and interpret artistic work for expression.

Kindergarten and Grade 1: Performing 7: Demonstrate movement and stillness using the basic elements of space, including line, shape, levels and size.

Pre-requisite Knowledge – Arts:

None

Objective: Students acquire intentional use of space as dancers

Procedures

Introductory Activity: Warm Up

Exploring personal space, self-space and general space.

Warm up movement exercise - Define and establish an awareness of personal space, shrink personal space, expand personal space (relate to “social-distancing”). Discuss cultural personal space and comfort zone. Personal space as relates to surroundings for safety. Sometimes dancers exaggerate personal space and invade the personal space of others.

Reflective question: How does the use of personal space communicate ideas?)

Exploring the Material: size and shape, changing levels in self space

Size (very small, very large; curved (core) versus straight (distal)

Four levels – low, middle, high, artificially high (everything is relative)

Show accessibility adaptations and solutions

Reflective question: How do size and shape communicate ideas?

Culminating Activity: Creating

Stage space and body shapes

Begin in self space, exploring tight personal space, transition to a large personal space and break out to traveling in general space alternating core and distal shapes stopping in each shape, then traveling to the next (vary levels) finally explode (jump) to a very large tall distal shape and hold it.

Reflective Question:

How did you feel at the beginning of your dance as compared to how you felt at the end? What did you do in your performance to change how you felt? What ideas can be expressed using stage space and body shapes?

Evaluation:

Ongoing assessment through observation and reflective questioning throughout.

Students are able to perform small curved shapes and large straight shapes, safely in place and while traveling.

*For more ideas for exploring dance: consult *Choreographing From Within, Developing the Habit of Inquiry as an Artist* by Diana F. Green, published by Human Kinetics (www.HumanKinetics.com)*

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