Instructional Unit Title: The Way West – The Oregon Trail: Theme and Variation Folk Dance

Dance 2nd Grade

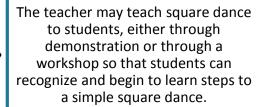
As an introduction, the teacher may brainstorm with the students so they can understand the variety of ways people dance socially in today's cultures.



Teacher may show examples of folk dances from the Oregon Trail so that students can begin to understand the style of social dance during the Oregon Trail era.



Teacher may guide students in a discussion of historical context (e.g. Oregon Trail, Colorado Gold Rush) so that students can begin to understand dance as an expression of specific cultural traditions of that era.





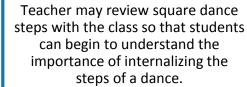
(Post Performance Task) Teacher may model performance reflection so that students can understand the significance of self-evaluation and its relationship to the creative process.



Teacher may conduct final dress rehearsal of dance performance so that students can appreciate and reflect upon the dance preparation process.



Teacher may rehearse square dance moves so that students can make connections between the rehearsal process and the creation of a final performance.





(Post Performance Task) Teacher may lead a discussion, which compares and contrasts square dance during Oregon Trail era and contemporary country dance in today's culture, so that students can make a connection of the origins of movement handed down from traditional to contemporary.



PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: As a dance troupe, you and your fellow dancers have been asked to perform a traditional dance reflecting Colorado's unique history for the Colorado Governor's State of State annual banquet. And as part of your performance, you will give a short presentation of the history of the dance including its origins and the occasions where/when the dance was typically performed.

This unit was authored by a team of Colorado educators. The unit is intended to support teachers, schools, and districts as they make their own local decisions around the best instructional plans and practices for all students. To see the entire instructional unit sample with possible learning experiences, resources, differentiation, and assessments visit http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/instructionalunitsamples.