



LET'S TAP

Created by STG Teaching Artist: Gaynell Walker

This curriculum is tied to an interactive lesson plan:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPuLKMIMqv0>

Description: Participants will learn basic tap steps and choreography by local artists who have participated in STG Programs.

Goal: Provide participants with the knowledge of basic tap steps and an opportunity to learn (3) combination steps.

Grade(s) /Age(s): K- Adult/ 5yrs - Adult	Video Length: 15 minutes
Materials: Computer device to view video and follow along with instructor, comfortable shoes or tap shoes.	Space needs: Select an open space with a flat clear surface that is clear of any objects on the floor to allow you to move and dance safely. Use of a tap board (flat wooden surface) is optional. A chair can be used for stability if needed.

WARM UP

Part 1 – warm up our knees, bending and straightening knees separately then loosening our ankles, shaking out each foot to relax our ankles. Reminder to keep knees bent and ankles relaxed when learning how to tap.

EXERCISES/ACTIVITIES

Basic Tap Steps/Terminology

Instructor will demonstrate/model basic tap steps and combination steps. This session will be conducted from a standing position in comfortable shoes. In

addition, the instructor will model/demonstrate in tap shoes and from a sitting position.

- Toe Tap, Heel, Tap, Brush, Spank
- Brush + Toe Tap = Flap, Brush + Spank = Shuffle

CLOSING

Brief History of Tap

- Roots in several ethnic percussive dances including Gioube Juba Dance, English clog dancing and Irish jigs
- Rhythm, classical, Broadway and post-modern are several styles of tap dance
- John Sublett is known as the “Father of Rhythm Tap”
- Notable Tap Legends are Bill Robinson, Nicholas Brothers, Jimmy Slide, Jeni Legon, Ann Miller
- Prominent Modern Tap Dancers are Savion Glover, Gregory Hines, Michelle Dorrance and Dianne Walker
- May 25 is “National Tap Dance Day” and was signed into law on Nov. 7, 1989

To learn more, the instructor recommends for participants to research the history of tap. Participants can also watch YouTube videos on different styles of tap. Seattle based Northwest Tap Connection showcases rhythm tap at its best.

REFLECTION

- Homework – Research online the history of tap and performers.
- Celebrate yourself for allowing yourself to explore your impulses in a creative way. This can be in form of a self-hug, air high five, or just a smile!
- Keep doing these activities as much as you want.
- Push yourself outside your comfort zone and remember to ALWAYS HAVE FUN!

SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

We appreciate and welcome your feedback! You can share your experience from any of our pre-recorded video sessions with us in this anonymous survey -

<https://www.tfaforms.com/4765455>

SHARE A PHOTO/VIDEO

If you tried any of these activities, please feel free to share a photo or a short video! We'd love to share what people are doing via our socials!

- Instagram @stgpresents
- STG facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/stgeducation>

ABOUT THE TEACHING ARTIST



Gaynell T. Walker (she/her) is a former elementary teacher and retired elementary principal. She taught Kindergarten, 4th and 6th grade and was Principal of a Title I K-6 school all in the Kent School District. She holds a Bachelor of Arts and Teacher Certification from the University of Washington. She holds a Masters of Education and Principal Certification from Seattle University. Gaynell also has a passion for dance which began as a teen. Her dance training was under the supervision of the late Dr. Darryln Smith, owner and artistic director of TTAAPP Central Studio. She has participated in trainings with the late

Cholly Atkins and Diane Walker at the New York Dance Festival. Currently Gaynell works with former owner and artistic director of Ewajo Centre, Edna Daigre, focusing on health and wellness through dance. She has performed at events sponsored by the Central Area Senior Center, MLKFame Community Center, Dance This 2015 and with the Women's Steel Pan Band at Folklife Festival 2016. Gaynell also taught low impact dance classes for healthy aging participants and was a guest dance instructor for an STG student workshop teaching dances of the Motown era.