

CONCEPT: Folk Dance step: “Thread the Needle”; Form: ABCD

Vocab Reinforced: Longways set, Clockwise, Counter-clockwise, Cast-off, Skating Position, Promenade

(Key: T = teacher; S = student; Rt = right; Lt = left; CCW = Counter-Clockwise; CW = Clockwise)

Process: Simultaneous Imitation / “Say & Do”

Durham Reel

New England Dance Masters, *Chimes of Dunkirk*
(Recording: “Reel,” New England Dance Masters, *Chimes of Dunkirk*)

Form: ABCD

Directions: CW, CCW

Reinforced Steps: Cast-Off, Promenade (Skating Position)

- T uses movement cards (diagrams) to arrange S into longways sets (i.e., scatter, facing pairs, longways)
- T presents dance w/ music via simultaneous imitation while talking through the steps
 - Note: This process necessitates that the S have mastered the reinforced steps. (see “Vocab” above)
 - See “Chimes of Dunkirk” handbook for the specific folk dance steps & definitions
 - Circle Left/CW (16), Circle Right/CCW (16)
 - Cast-off w/o arch (16), Cast-off w/ arch (16)
 - Promenade Left (16), Promenade Right (16)
 - “Thread the Needle” Left (16), “Thread the Needle” Right (16)
 - T pulls “head lady” and her line through arch made by first two “gents”
- S walk through steps w/o music to fix any mistakes.
- S dance w/ music (w/o T ☺)

Process: Composing

Composing a Folk Dance

Composition by Class or Small Groups
(Recording: any Jig, Reel, or selection w/ 16 beat phrases, i.e. Form: AB)

- S or T chooses the formation (i.e., longways set)
- T writes a # of blanks of board (i.e., 4) to fit the intended form (i.e., AB, ABCD, ABCB)
- T posts a list of any known dance steps for S to review (8 beats)... examples:
 - Forward/Back
 - Rt turn (hand/elbow/star)
 - Lt turn (hand/elbow/star)
 - Do-Si-Do
 - Sashay
 - Forward & Switch (change spots w/ partner)
 - Cast-Off (16 beats) → I tell S “this will be two slots.”
 - Reel (16 beats)
 - Promenade Lt/Rt (16 beats)
 - Grand Rt/Lt (16 beats)
 - “Repeat” (S copy the same step for any returning sections like ABCB)
- S choose steps to fill in the [four] blanks and determine their order
- S practice dance in groups (“be sure to count the beats in your phrases”) w/o music
- S perform in groups w/ music
- Individual S groups perform their dance for class