

Study Guide for Teachers

Hip Hop Dimensions

Poetry in Motion Crew

Performances, Workshops and Residencies



Young
Audiences
Arts for
Learning

Connecticut

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



The Poetry in Motion Crew is a diverse collection of dancers with raw talent in Hip Hop and Break Dancing. While electrifying audiences, they inspire youth to think of dancing as a positive outlet for artistic expression. Audiences are educated on the history, culture, foundation, and the dance styles of Hip-Hop.

Poetry in Motion maintains the highest standard of professionalism and keeps in mind age appropriateness of its offerings. The Poetry in Motion Crew preserves the pure essence of Hip-Hop and keeps the art form alive and well!

OBJECTIVES

- To break the stereotypes frequently connected to Hip-Hop culture.
- To educate students about the history of Hip-Hop and aspects of its culture
- To promote positive benefits of dance such as teamwork, artistic expression, outlets for energy, exercise and more.

RELATED TERMS

- Popping
- Locking
- Boogaloo
- Freestyle
- Party moves
- House Dancing
- Break Dancing
- Old School

RESOURCES

Books:

Hip Hop America by Nelson George
Hip Hop Matters by S. Craig Watkins
Can't Stop Won't Stop; a history of the hip hop generation by Jeff Chang and D.J. Kool Herc
Prophets of the Hood; politics and poetics in hip hop by Imani Perry
Hip Hop; A Short History by Terrell Brown

Web:

<http://www.uic.edu/orgs/kbc/hiphop/index.htm>
<http://www.breakdance.com/>

Wear loose clothing in workshops



BEFORE THE PROGRAM

Begin K – W – L chart on Hip Hop Culture.
(What do you know, want to know, want to learn?)
Watch a video of break dancers.

Discuss:

- The physical and mental prowess needed to become successful at this type of dance
- How dancers can work as a team
- How break dancing relates to other types of dance

AFTER THE PROGRAM

Discuss:

- Complete K – W – L chart on Hip Hop Culture
- What are some results of using competitive dance as an alternative to fighting?
- Constructive and destructive elements of hip-hop culture throughout its history.
- Pick a time period in history.
 - How did people express themselves politically using art forms?
 - Name two pieces of art (dance, theater, visual art, literature, music) that were not well received by mainstream media. What were these pieces trying to express?
 - Name a piece of art, music, dance, etc. (i.e. statue of liberty) created for healing or uniting.

CURRICULAR LINKS

Connecticut State Department of Education

Source: The CT Framework – Social Studies

- + Goal 3: Historical Themes
Students will describe examples of how societies throughout history have used various forms of visual arts, dance, theater, myths, literature and music to express their beliefs, sense of identity and philosophical ideas.

Source: The CT Framework – Dance

- + Standard 1: Elements and Skills
Students will demonstrate the following movement skills and explain the underlying principles: alignment, balance, initiation of movement, articulation of isolated body parts, weight shift, elevation and landing.
- + Standard 3: Meaning
Students will observe and explain how different accompaniment (such as sound, music, spoken text) can affect the meaning of a dance.

HIP HOP PERFORMANCE / WORKSHOP

This program is for students of all ages who like movement to music. The Poetry in Motion crew teaches students basic Hip-Hop freestyle skills, break dancing, waving, robotics, line dances, vocabulary of skills, and some history of Hip-Hop culture.



RESIDENCY

Multiple visits by members of the crew lead to an invigorating performance by your class or group. Focus on self esteem and team building.

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