

8th Grade Dance Study Guide

History

- Dance has been used throughout civilization by various cultures and society to communicate concepts such as customs, self-expression and social interaction.
- Western Square Dance is that part of the American square dance scene which reflects the color, custom and casualness of life in the Western United States.

Types of Dance

- Square Dance: Performed with partners, in groups of eight forming a square.
- Contra Dance: A dance in which couples stand in long lines facing each other, and move in opposite directions.
Examples: Virginia Reel
- Round/Circle Dance: Round dance is a term used as early as the eighteenth century in Europe for dances in which partners perform in a circle and usually move in a counterclockwise direction. Round dances are also called couple or partner dances.
Examples: Heel Toe Polka, Jiffy Mixer, the Waltz, the Polka, Five Foot Two
- Line Dancing: A dance performed in a line, usually no partners.
Examples: Hot Chocolate, Rollercoaster, Electric Slide
- Folk Dance: A Dance performed from customs and traditions of people. Dances that come from countries other than the United States. It is "the dance of the people".

Square Dance

Parts of a Square Dance:

Introduction

Main figure

Break - short filler between sections in a dance (example: allemande left).

Ending

Terminology

Allemande Left - (face corners) Joining left hands with corners, walk around each other and return to face partner. (Usually done before or precedes grand right left).

Closed Dance Position - Girl's right hand in boy's left, girl's left hand on boy's shoulder; boy's right hand in middle of girl's back to guide her.

Corner - the girl to the left of each boy; the boy to the right of each girl.

Courtesy Turn - The boy holds his partner's left hand in his left and places his right hand forward and the boy backing up.

Divide the Ring - The first couple walks across the set passing between, or "dividing" the third couple, and then separating, so the first girl walks to the right, and the first boy to the left, around the outside of the set and back to place. The rest of the couples repeat the action.

Do-Si-Do - Two dancers face and move toward each other passing right shoulders. Each person then moves to his right, passing in back of the other person and without turning, passes left shoulders and moves backward to place.

Forward and Back - Move forward with four steps and move back to place in the same manner.

Grand Right Left - (face partners) Extend right hands to partner, walk forward, passing right shoulder. Give left hand to the next and walk forward, passing left shoulders.

Head Couples - The couple with their backs to the wall where the music is located (Couple 1) and the couple facing that same wall (Couple 3).

Home Position - Boy's beginning position in any set or formation.

Honor you Partner - Bow or curtsy to your partner and then to corners.

Ladies Chain - Head two ladies join right hands in the middle of a set, walk halfway around, and give left hands to the opposite man who turns them with a courtesy turn. This is repeated, with the head two girls doing the ladies chain back to their partners. Then, the side two girls complete the action.

Line or Contra - type of formation; dancers stand side by side facing in the same direction.

Line of Direction - Refers to the direction of movement of dancers around a circle, *counterclockwise*.

Opposite - the girl or boy directly across the set.

Partner - The person by your side. Girls on right of boys.

Promenade - Couple walks side by side, girl on right, right hands joined to right (on top) and left to left (on bottom) in a cross-armed position. The couple walks counter-clockwise around the set.

Set - Group of dancers in a single square dance formation.

Side Couples - The couples to the right (Side couple 2) and left (Side couple 4) of head couple 1.

Star - Dancers move to center with the right hands extended, joining hands, walk around the circle clockwise once and back out when then get home.

Swing - Two dancers hook elbows or closed dance position, turn each other once around (clockwise) and return to place.



