

Voci Dance

Master Class PRE-Lesson

Before we visit...

Dancers from Voci Dance will be coming to your classroom soon to teach a **modern dance** master class. Here are some pre-visit lesson ideas to share with your class.

Discussion and ideas

Voci Dance is a **modern dance** company.

Ask your students: What do you think **modern dance** is?

Generate a list based on your students' suggestions.

If they have no suggestions, ask them if they think it is like **ballet** or **jazz** or **hip hop**.

Technology is your friend

Google videos by the following companies and watch them. **Compare and contrast** how they moved and how they approached choreography. Ask students what they liked and disliked and why.

Suggested modern dance masters to google are:

- Martha Graham
- Rudolph von Laban
- Merce Cunningham
- Mark Morris Dance Group
- Alvin Ailey
- Paul Taylor Dance Group
- Jose Limon

Pre-visit movement study

Modern Dancers like to make shapes with their bodies. Choreographers connect shapes to form dances.

- Ask students to stand freely in space.
- Ask them to explore what kinds of shapes they can make with their bodies. Ask them to move into a shape, hold it for a count of 5 and move to the next shape. Explore making high and low level shapes.

Shape and Freeze

This activity would follow the movement study above.

Supplies needed: CD player or drum; open space next to the students' desks or playground, stage or pavilion area

Explain to the students that while the music is playing that they may make shapes with their bodies. When the music stops, they must freeze in those shapes.

This activity uses the well-known format of Freeze Dance, but the emphasis is making shapes when the students freeze.

*Please note this lesson is easily modified depending on the grade level.

This performance/ lesson co-relates to the following Next Generation Sunshine State Standards:

DA.2.C.3, DA.2.C.3.1, DA.2.O.3.2, and beyond. This lesson addresses multiple standards across all grade levels.