



Lesson Plan 1: Traditional Dances of the Mediterranean

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Objective

Students will explore traditional dances from Greece, Turkey, Italy, and Spain. They will learn vocabulary related to dance, music, and emotions and practice comprehension, vocabulary usage, and oral presentation.

Intangible Heritages Featured

- Greece: Sirtaki
- Turkey: Halay
- Italy: Tarantella
- Spain: Flamenco

1. Lesson Introduction – Guess the Dance!

Play 10–15 second clips of traditional music from each country without revealing the origin.

- Sirtaki (Greece)
- Halay (Turkey)
- Tarantella (Italy)
- Flamenco (Spain)

Students guess the country and describe the emotion they feel from the music.

2. Reading: Dancing Through Tradition

In many Mediterranean countries, dance is a way to express emotions, tell stories, and celebrate life. In Greece, the Sirtaki is known for its slow-to-fast rhythm, bringing people together in joy. Turkey's Halay is performed in a circle, with strong steps and powerful music. Italy's Tarantella is fast and fun, often danced at weddings. In Spain, Flamenco expresses deep emotions with dramatic hand movements and stamping feet. These dances are more than steps—they are part of national identity and history.

3. Comprehension Questions (True/False)

1. Sirtaki is a dance from Spain. (False)
2. Flamenco includes strong hand movements. (True)

3. Tarantella is a slow and serious dance. (False)
4. Halay is danced alone. (False)
5. All the dances are part of their country's cultural history. (True)

4. Vocabulary Practice

Word List: rhythm – wedding – celebration – dramatic – identity – express – joy – powerful – together – emotions

A. Fill in the Blanks:

1. People dance to ____ their feelings.
2. Flamenco is a ____ dance.
3. Sirtaki is usually danced ____.
4. Halay has a very ____ beat.
5. The Tarantella is popular at a ____.

B. Match the Words with Their Meaning:

Word	Meaning
Express	b. Show a feeling or idea
Celebration	a. A happy event like a wedding or party
Powerful	c. Strong and full of energy
Identity	d. Who someone is or what a group represents

5. Speaking Activity: Tell Me About This Dance

In small groups, students choose one dance and answer the following:

- Where is it from?
- When is it danced?
- What do the steps or music express?
- Do we have anything similar in our culture?

6. Writing Assignment (Homework)

Write a short paragraph (6–8 sentences) about a traditional dance from your country or one of the dances from the lesson. Use at least 5 vocabulary words.