



Dance Skills

JAZZ STEPS : “The Shim Sham” dance

Prepared for Tudor Primary School
June 2007 V1

MEETING THE ACADEMIC AGENDA

■ CROSS CURRICULAR

- HISTORY
- MUSIC
- PSHE/SPORTS STUDIES
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION

■ LENGTH OF UNIT

- 6 HRS APPROX

■ YEAR GROUP

- 5 and 6

What do we want to achieve?

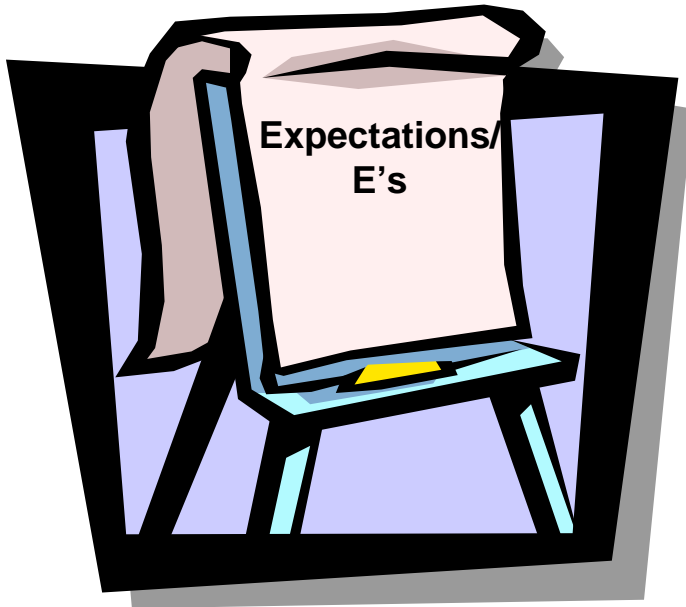
- To have an understanding and explore the History and culture of Jazz steps particularly the dance called the Shim Sham.
- To compose a short routine involving learning the basic steps of the dance to perform clearly and fluently.
- To develop different ways of using the body to show expression, rhythm and the energy of the dance
- To perform the dance clearly and fluently using contrasting dynamic qualities
- To observe and evaluate themselves and others dancing



Learning Outcomes?

- To perform with an awareness of other people around you.
- To perform with clear dynamics and precise footwork
- To demonstrate an understanding of descriptive words when talking about dance.

Expectations...



By the end of the dance **MOST** children will be able to:-

- Perform with expression and improvise freely using a range of continual movements and patterns
- Work collaboratively in pairs and small groups to communicate a dance idea
- Practice, remember and perform complete dances
- Warm-up and cool-down independently

Vocabulary:



In this unit pupils will have the opportunity to use a range of words and phrases such as:

- Shim Sham vocabulary:

Lindy Hop, Stroll, Line Dance, African American, Jazz movement, Shimmy, Tacky Anne, breaks, improvisation and musicality.

- Composition/features:

Pattern, musical phrases, dance structure

Health and Safety:



- Do pupils have appropriate footwear on e.g. trainers/ dance shoes
- Is the space appropriate for energetic dance e.g. wooden floor vrs stone/concrete floor
- Are pupils wearing appropriate and comfortable clothing
- Have pupils been appropriately warmed up and cooled down

WHAT IS THE SHIM SHAM?

Shim Sham is the Lindy Hop Line Dance. All the Jazz steps came up from the South (US) with the migration of the former slave descendents to the cities. These steps have counterparts in Africa and are still danced to this day, where all rhythm and dance comes from the gods, according to popular belief. Dancing and music is the way they communicate in their language, according to African folk religion.

The Original Lindy Hoppers at the Savoy Ballroom back in the 1930s had a considerable background in Tap and jazz dance. They used to warm up for dancing by doing traditional jazz and tap steps. Eventually, their warm up became standardized and a group of them could be found on the floor warming up as the band was tuning up.

The rhythm of the feet was very distinctive and stuck in the mind of arranger Edgar Sampson, who was a close associate of drummer-bandleader Chick Webb. Sampson wrote a song called "Stompin' at the Savoy" based on the distinctive rhythm of the dancer's feet. The warm up exercise became the Shim Sham dance (named after its first step) and the song became a tradition. Sampson sold the song to Benny Goodman for \$100 during a period of particularly lean times in the Depression.

It is undisputed that the Lindy revival of the late 1980s also brought back Shim Sham. People all over the world think that a Lindy event is not complete without a Shim Sham.



Pictures of the Shim Sham and the great Frankie Manning leading it in the 1st picture. Only one of two surviving original Lindy Hop dancers of the 30s and when the Shim Sham was danced. The second picture shows how the dance is performed today as a line dance!



Costume from Oscar Klein, Inc. (1930-1931)

Drawing by Ben-Hur Baz

Ready for Winter in Brown or Green The jacket costume and double-breasted coat

THE jacket costume is still along the crest of fashions this fall and its newest version includes a one-piece dress with the appearance of a blouse and skirt. Soft brown woolen tricot is dark brown baby lamb is combined with pale pink woolen at the attractive example shown on this page. The slightly fitted waistline, the double-breasted closing, the almost straight skirt line and the clear bright green of this trend coat mark it as the best of the 1931 fall mode. An unusual collar of mink fur is made like a hood which covers over and tucks under the coat which has cuffs of mink.



Drawing by Ben-Hur Baz

Costume from Dittie, Baker and Fuller Company

Nation-wide Fashions: St. Louis Fall Coats Are Almost Straight

IF YOU study this picture carefully you will see that it tells a story about autumn fashions. It tells, first, that the newest suit from Paris has a transparent coat with beige fur and bell-shaped sleeves, that a wool from green character to line and that brown suede makes smart shoes and a bag. Next this picture shows that the formal coat is fitted a little at the waistline and scarcely flared at the hem, that blue fur makes attractive sleeve cuffs and that velvet appears in a formal hat. And finally it shows that the sports coat favors straight lines with roomy sleeves and a wide belt, that camel hair is still popular and that a dirty but tilted well-to-do suit seems new and smart as fall.

How people dressed back in the 1930s. This pictures depict the fashion trends of the 1930s for middle class society and those with money. Most African American would make their clothes from material that was cheap and easily sourced.

SHIM SHAM STEPS

The Shim sham is solo danced and so a partner is not required All steps are 8 count, however you start counting from 8,1,2,3,4,5,6,7, next step starts on 8 etc.

■ SHIM SHAM SHIMMY

- The first bar starts with the Right Foot
- On "8" Tap forward on right
- 1: Tap back with Right (Weight on Left)
- 2: Tap Left forward (Weight on Right)
- 3: Tap Left Back (Weight on Right)
- 4: Tap Right foot forward (Weight on Left)
- 5: Tap Right foot back (Weight on Left)
- 6: Tap Right forward (Weight on Left)
- 7: Tap Right Back (Weight on Both)
- ⑩ Reverse this and start on left foot!

SHIM SHAM STEPS

FULL BREAK

- 8: Plant Right foot (stomp it down)
- 1: Hold Beat
- 2: Tap left foot (Weight on Right)
- 3: Tap left foot (weight on Right)
- 4: Skip Hop Backwards on Left
- 5: Skip Hop Backwards on Right
- 6: Jump Straddle (feet spread apart)
- 7: Jump together (feet together)

■ PUSH AND CROSS OVER

- Bar 1 - Push Right
Mantra: "You Push and You Push and You Cross Over"
- 8: Right foot out, Push right
- 1. Pull Back
- 2. Right foot out, Push right
- 3. Pull Back
- 4. Left foot crosses over in front of right
- 5. Left foot planted in front of right
- 6. Right moves beside left
- 7. Hold beat
- Reverse for left and then repeat on right again

SHIM SHAM STEPS

TACKY ANNE

- Beat "& 8": Jump Straddle -- feet about 30 inches apart
- Beat 1: Right foot brought behind the body to just behind the Left foot
- Beat 2: Right foot brought back to starting place
- Beat 3: Left foot brought behind the body to just behind the Right foot
- Beat 4: Left foot brought back to starting place
- Beat 5: Right foot brought behind the body to just behind the Left foot
- Beat 6: Right foot brought back to starting place
- Beat 7: Left foot brought behind the body to just behind the Right foot. BUT, Beat 7 is just a little tricky, so see below
- There are THREE Tacky Annies in Shim Sham. Remember that THREE (3) Tackie Annies. (This is the place that most people get fouled up) Beat 7 is the funny part:
- On the first two, you just touch the left foot behind the right and go from there into the "& 8" jump straddle.
- On the Third, you want to stop doing the step, so you DO NOT touch the left behind. Just hold the beat with feet spread. The reason is that a Full Break comes after the Tacky Annies.

POSSIBLE DANCE FRAMEWORK

- Pupils decide on an opening and closing for the Shim Sham dance.
- Use visual stimuli to develop own formations/dance steps using: Pivots/ turns, Kicks, steps leading with the heels, jumps
- Help pupils to develop their knowledge of compositional skills by structuring a core task which asks for specific responses to the material explored which results in a class/ group performance.
- Lead the pupils in an exploration of actions, gestures and body shapes that suit the Jazz steps style. Help pupils to identify and make clear the dynamics of the dance.



Other resources to help you

■ Visual stimuli- Shim Sham clips

- “You tube” search and for SHIM SHAM, particularly clips with Frankie Manning in them!
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hubzPVG3f28>

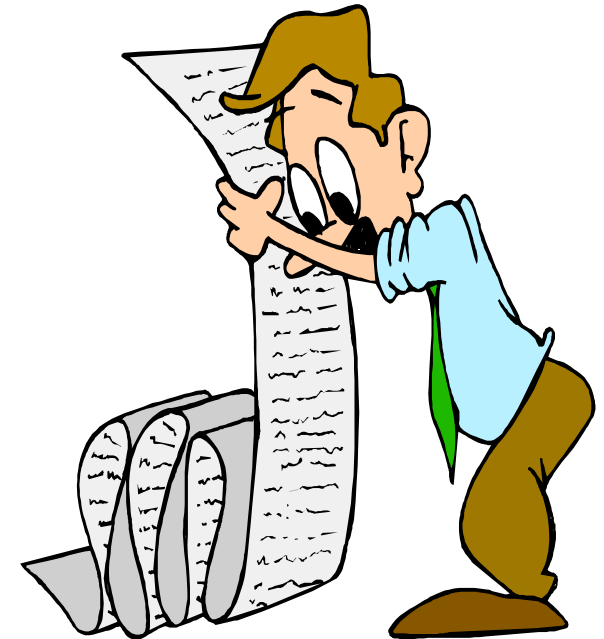
■ Audio stimuli

- A'int what you do it's the way that you do it – Jimmie Lunceford.
- Wanna learn the Shim Sham – Bill Elliot and his Orchestra. This is the music most used within the Lindy Hop community.
- Stompin' at the Savoy – Benny Goodman

■ Photographs/context and history

- www.Jiveswing.com
- www.savoystyle.com
- www.savoyballroom.com

Joseph and Trisha of www.jiveswing.com



Extension links

- Introduce the differences between African music and European music and the coming together to form Jazz/ swing music.
- Introduce historical context, i.e. the social environment leading up to WW2
- The arrival of the GI's from the USA during the 40s and the influence of American culture in British society
- Compare and contrast with dances from other cultures.
- Fashion styles during the 30s and 40s

