Visual and Performing Arts: "Dancing Around the World"

A multi-cultural lesson plan created by Denise Retter, student teacher, Roseville Unified School District, Roseville, CA

**Topic:** Dances from various countries.

**Objectives:** Students will become familiar with the traditional dances of various countries through research on the Internet and through the school library in order to:

1. Understand that there are traditional dances for most countries of the world.
2. Compare the names and characteristics of dancing from different countries
3. Experience interactive use of the computer in order to investigate dances of various cultures while developing the ability to recognize dances from a particular country.
4. Appreciate the diversity and commonalities of dances from various world cultures.

Additionally, students will be finding appropriate music and learning dance steps from various nations, in order to perform a group dance.

**Purpose:** To help students understand and appreciate the historical and on-going use of dance, as an integral part of various cultures.

**Overview:** Teacher will assign students to groups, and each group will research a country. Students will complete research and report to class, the names of traditional dances in their assigned country; a description and correct spelling of each dance; and all groups must be prepared to describe dances that are traditional in the United States. Teacher will list the countries on the overhead or board, and have categories for dances as the groups report, such as "folk dances," "ceremonial dances," "religious dances," etc. Students will note differences and similarities in the lists.

**Materials:** Teacher will need to provide music from various countries for students to use in developing their dance performances.

**Resources:** Students will use the library and the Internet to develop research data.

**Activity # 1:** Students will work in groups of 4 or 5 on-line to develop knowledge of their assigned country.

**Activity # 2:** Students will be able to list the names of the traditional dances described, and explain whether they are folk dances, religious dances, or traditional dances. Students will describe similar dances in the United States. Teacher will record research findings by category. Students will be expected to take notes of their groups findings.

**Activity # 3:** Student groups will work together to develop a three-minute dance routine to demonstrate to the class.

**Activity # 4:** Student groups will locate and bring to class a recording of music from each group's researched country or culture.

**Activity # 5:** Student groups will perform a three-minute dance lesson with music for the class, to conclude their activity.

**Review and Closure:**

Students will be expected to summarize verbally, their experience in learning about Western and non-Western dance. Students should
critically review the elements of the dances from each country.