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## ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

**Flamenco! Grade levels: 3-12**

## LEARNING GOALS

1. To introduce students to flamenco dance and music
2. To introduce the history and origins of the Spanish Gypsies.

## PRE-ACTIVITY

- For all: Teacher will use words in the vocabulary list to familiarize the students with Spanish words pertaining to flamenco dance. Teacher will distribute flamenco poem. Teacher will encourage students to use the word "ole" to prepare them for participation in the performance.
- Additionally for older kids: Teacher will display map of the Spain and point out the migration paths of the Gypsies into Spain. Learn the names of the four groups that made up the beginnings of flamenco: the Moors, The Sephardic Jews, the Andalusian people, and the Gypsies. Learn the map of Southern Spain and the migration paths of the Gypsies, Moors, and Sephardic Jews.

## POST-ACTIVITY

- For all: Review clapping rhythms and footwork: What does Flamenco dancer do with the feet? What does a Flamenco dancer do with the hands? What are the different ways of creating rhythm in Flamenco? Review of flamenco poem with dance steps.
- Additionally for older kids: Teacher will break students into groups and each will be responsible for one of the cultures discussed in the lesson above. Students will do a web search on that group, write down five new things they learn about them and then share it with the class.

## CURRICULUM LINKS:

Dance, Foreign Languages, History and Social Sciences, Multicultural Studies, Music, Math

## The Gypsies:

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Historians claim that the Gypsies originated in India between 800 and 900 B.C.E. when a large exodus of people occurred from Northern India, most notably the Punjabi region. These people are believed to have been comprised of animal traders and trainers, acrobats, dancers, musicians, palmists and metalworkers. These nomadic groups, generally referred to as Rom and/or gypsies, divided into two major migratory routes with the most traceable moving west through Pakistan, Persia, Arabia and North Africa, before arriving in Spain via the Mediterranean Sea on trading vessels and overland caravans.

### **The Principle Characteristics of Flamenco**

There are three main characteristics of flamenco which are the cante (singing), the toque (guitar playing) and baile (dancing). These can be accompanied by palmas (hand clapping), jaleo (words of encouragement), pitos (finger snapping), knuckle rapping, and the hammering of an anvil, castanets and a host of other musical instruments. All flamencos alike must have soniquete (the feeling; the swing; the groove); aire (Rhythmic excitement and technical excellence but always with the “gem of sorrow” that haunts all serious flamenco) and duende (the heart).

### **Vocabulary**

**Abanico**- Fan (prop used in a flamenco dance)

**Aficionado**- lover of Flamenco

**Alegrías** - a joyful song and dance form in compás of 12 from Cadiz.

**Andalucía** - a regional area located in Southern Spain which consists of eight Provinces: Almeria, Cádiz, Cordoba, Granada, Huelva, Jaén, Málaga, and Sevilla. Andalusia is generally accepted to be the traditional birthplace of the art of flamenco.

**Baile** - the dance.

**Bailaor/ Bailaora** - a male/female flamenco dancer.

**Braceo** - the arm movements of a flamenco dancer.

**Bulerías** - a high-spirited song and dance form which originated from Jerez de la Frontera in Southern Spain.

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**Castañuelas/Castanets**- a hand held percussion instrument used to produce clicks for rhythmic accents or a rapid series of clicks. They are traditionally made of hardwood, such as chestnut, although fiberglass is becoming increasingly popular.

**Compás** -the special rhythms used in flamenco. The most common cycles are in 4/4 meter, and combinations of 3/4 and 6/8 meter.

**Duende** - the soul force which is said to inspire the art of flamenco. Essentially, duende is an inner spirit which is believed to be released as a result of the performer's intense emotional involvement with the music, song and dance.

**Escobilla**- a long solo that shows off the flamenco dancer's footwork.

**Falda** -a flamenco dancer's skirt.

**Flamenco** -a style of music, song and dance from Andalucía, Spain. It is generally believed that the roots of flamenco evolved from a unique interplay of native Arabic, Andalusian, Sephardic and Gypsy cultures that existed in Andalucía..

**Floreo** -the movement of the flamenco dancer's hands.

**Fuertes**- hard or loud clapping.

**Gitana/ Gitano** - a female/male gypsy.

**Golpe**-stamping the floor with the entire bottom of the foot.

**Guajiras** - a song and dance form from the group of songs *Ida y Vuelta*, which is influenced by Cuban rhythms. It is an uplifting flamenco rhythm.

**Guitarra**-Guitar

**Jaleo** - shouts of encouragement for the singer dancer or guitar player...recognition of the duende! The most familiar flamenco *jaleo* is: *jolé!*

**Juerga** - a flamenco party

**Llamada**-a signal or call that the flamenco dancer gives to the guitarist to change the rhythm.



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**Moors**- Populations of Berber, Black African and Arab descent from Northern Africa, who came to conquer, occupy and rule the Iberian Peninsula for nearly 800 years. They called the territory *Al Andalus*, comprising most of what is now Spain and Portugal.

**Olé**- a Spanish word used to cheer and applaud the flamenco performers. It could come from the Hebrew verb *Joleh*, which means "throw to the air".

**Palmas** - the rhythmic hand clapping which is used to accompany flamenco song and dance.

**Palo**- the different styles of flamenco. There are over 50 different palos flamencos!

**Pitos** -- finger-snapping used to accompany flamenco song and dance.

**Planta** - stamping the floor with the ball of the foot.

**Punta** - stamping the floor with the toe of the foot.

**Sevillanas** - a type of folk music and dance. Sevillanas is danced by couples of all ages during celebrations (fiestas or ferias), including the famous Seville Fair, La Feria de Sevilla. Sevillanas are very light and happy music.

**Sephardic**- is a general term referring to the descendants of Spanish-Portuguese Jews who lived in the Iberian Peninsula. The term essentially means "Spanish".

**Sordas** - soft or muffled hand claps.

**Tacon** - stamping the floor with the heel of the foot.

**Taconeo** - flamenco footwork.

**Tango or Tangos** - a lively and infectious song and dance form. Although customarily performed in a light style, it possesses an inherent yet subtle tone of seriousness. It is purely gypsy in origin. It has nothing to do with the tango from Argentina.

**Zapateado**-flamenco footwork

**Zapato**-Shoe



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## **Flamenco Elements**

Braseo: Arm work

Floreo: Hand work

Tacaneo: Foot Work

Compás: Rhythm

Palmas: Clapping

Jaleo: Verbal encouragement

## **ABOUT THE PERFORMERS:**

Eve "Eva Lorca" Costarelli has been teaching flamenco, tap and yoga in the Boston community for the past eighteen years and specializes in teaching children. Ms. Costarelli began her professional career as a tap dancer at the Leon Collins Tap Dancer's Paradise. She was first introduced to flamenco by Ramon de los Reyes and then went on to both perform and teach in his company. Ms. Costarelli is a familiar face on the Boston dance scene, contributing her considerable experience to events such as Dance Across the City Day, The Children's Dance Festival, City Dance and the Boston Children's Museum Outreach Program. Eve Costarelli is the founder and Artistic Director of the Always B Dancing, a rhythmic dance troupe performing flamenco and traditional jazz tap. She is also founder and creator of Yoga-Snacks, an in-school yoga program, and travels to schools (K-12) bringing both her love and knowledge of flamenco and yoga to youth all over the state. Ms. Costarelli is also part of the Massachusetts State Teaching Roster.

**Antonio "Tiriti" Tran** has been studying flamenco guitar intensively for the last three years, traveling to Spain each year to hone his technique and accompaniment skills. While in Spain, he performed numerous times. One performance in particular, earned him an honorary

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membership with the Pena Flamenca de Alhaurina. In 2010, he won third place in the ForoFlamenco's International Composition Challenge with his composition, "Nos Miran." Working with Harold Burgon and AndaLaMusica Records, Antonio plans to release his debut album soon. Antonio was featured on T.V. in on BevCam's Debut (2010 and 2011), on the Steve Katsos Show (2010 and 2011), and on All About the Arts (2012) You can catch Antonio performing regularly with in the Boston area.