



## Dance Moves Culture

Around the globe and throughout generations, dance has always played a fundamental part of what we call “culture.” Like spoken and written language, dance is one of the most basic ways that we communicate and pass down our heritage, values, and history. As cultures grow and evolve, so, too, do dance traditions.

### The History of Hula

The arts have long been a way to communicate the stories of our culture. Students who grow up in Hawaii are likely to participate in lessons on how to dance the Hula. The Hula has a long and rich history within the Hawaiian culture and at times served as a way to document history, preserve customs, and even honor royalty. Legends say that the Hula was birthed by imitating the waves of the ocean.



Watch this video and follow along to learn a few basic steps of the Hula.  
WATCH: [youtube.com/watch?v=HsU5gmXhneY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsU5gmXhneY)

#### Reflect:

- Is there a dance that tells the stories of your family?
- How could you use dance and movement to share the story of your life and the environment you live in?



For further information about the history of the Hula: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/media/hula/>

### How Do We Create Dance Traditions Today?

Traditional dance, like Spanish flamenco, Japanese kabuki, and Hawaiian Hula all have a long and rich history. For some destinations, the allure of traditional dance brings thousands of tourists every year and contributes millions of dollars to local tourism. Learn more by reading these articles:

- <https://www.greece-is.com/traditional-greek-dances-live/>
- <https://www.hawaiibusiness.com/the-economics-of-hula-seems-like-an-oxymoron/>

More recent popular dances, like two-step and breakdancing, have also become part of our cultural heritage. Dance as an art form is seeing something of a resurgence today with the popularity of games like Fortnite and apps like TikTok.

- **Read:** “This 129-Year-Old Theory About Art Explains Why TikTok is Such a Hit with Gen-Z”  
<https://frl.nyu.edu/this-129-year-old-theory-about-art-explains-why-tiktok-is-such-a-hit-with-gen-z/>
- **Consider:** What are some popular dance traditions that are being formed right now?
- **Activity:** Is TikTok reinventing creativity? Take a deep dive into the worldwide cultural phenomenon of TikTok and consider its impact.
  - <https://theday.co.uk/stories/tiktok-has-become-a-major-cultural-force>

**Students!** Answering our questions? Using our strategies? Share them with us at [discovery@worldstrides.com](mailto:discovery@worldstrides.com).