

KNOW

About the Artist



Aché Brasil is passionate and enthusiastic about engaging young people in learning about the culture, the traditions, the music and movement of the people of Brazil. Brazilian-born, Mestre Eclilson was influenced at an early age by the folkloric musical atmosphere of his birthplace, Recife. Known for his sinuous agility and breathtaking acrobatics, besides performing, he runs capoeira academies in Canada and Brazil and his team has performed in over 10,000 schools since 1990. The word "aché" stems from Yoruba, meaning, "all things positive" and it is with this spirit in mind that Aché Brasil is proud to bring the traditions and culture of the Brazilian people to the students. (Visit <http://achebrasil.com>)

About the Performance

- Discipline: Rich in music and dance, the group's performances include such dynamic forms as Samba, Maracatu, Caboclo, Coco de Roda and the famous Brazilian dance martial-art Capoeira - a display of acrobatics, performed to the rhythm of the berimbau (bow and string percussion instrument).
- Duration/sequence: During the 50 minute performance, four to five performers will teach the background knowledge about capoeira and other dances along with the narration of the history of African slavery, Brazilian culture and beliefs and the instruments being used in the performances and invite students to be interactive.
- Technical requirements: PA system with one or two microphones (if possible) and heated gym in the cold season.

About the Art Form

- Capoeira: Brazilian martial art that combines elements of dance, acrobatics and music. Capoeira was developed by West African descendants and contains themes of African slavery. Capoeira are known for quick and complex moves, using mainly power, speed, and leverage for a wide variety of kicks, spins, and highly mobile techniques.
- Maracatu: A traditional rhythm of Pernambuco (north-east estate of Brazil), symbolic of the black kingdom and was used in ceremonies for leaders of the slave community. It has recently become a popular rhythm throughout Brazil.
- Caboclo: A beautifully choreographed Amazonian Native dance and sounds of the Amazon forest. This dance and rhythm embeds the importance of mixed race as a form of identity for the Brazilian Native culture.
- http://artstarts.com/assets/ad/study_guides/achebrasilperf-study.pdf

WONDER

Links to Curriculum

- Learning about similarities and differences in individuals and groups helps us develop a positive attitude and caring behaviours, which helps us build healthy relationships in communities.
- Religious and cultural practices that emerged during certain periods have endured and continue to influence people. Creative expression is a means to explore and share one's identity within a community.
- Dance, music, and visual arts differ across time and place and are each unique languages for communicating.

Pre-Performance Discussion Questions

- Where is Brazil? What is the climate and culture like in Brazil? What race populated Brazil before it was discovered? What language do Brazilians speak and why?
- Have you seen or heard about the Brazilian Mardi-Gras? If yes, what does it look like and what is special about it?

Post-Performance Activities

- Make a Chocalho, a shaker instrument using plastic recyclable bottles or cans and seeds/rice and decorate it with cool patterns to practice making rhythms! More instructions: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2tUyM0mF_8
- Primary: Draw the costumes and masks you saw in the performances. Pick your favourite dance and re-enact it. What were the movements like? Can you create a story to go with your dance?
- Intermediate: Make a skit/drama/dance using the theme of slavery. How is the story delivered through the movements? Why was Capoeira disguised as a dance, instead of being obvious it was a martial art?

Post-Performance Discussion Questions

- Primary: What would it feel like to be a slave? How did the movements and sounds represent the theme of slavery?
- Intermediate: Why were most Africans brought to the Northeast of Brazil? How much of an influence did slavery have on Brazilian culture? Why did Brazil take so long to abolish slavery? What is the price of freedom?

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