

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

STUDY GUIDE



Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles

This study guide contains activities and resources to help you extend the lessons brought to your students through the Carpenter Center's *Classroom Connections* program with Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles.

Ballet Folklórico de Los Ángeles is a dance company. They perform Mexican folk dance and are based in Los Angeles, California.

Please feel free to utilize these activities as a means of enriching your students' overall experience with *Classroom Connections*!

Questions? Feel free to contact:
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MEET KARELI!

Kareli Montoya started Ballet Folkórico de Los Ángeles in 2011.

Kareli started dancing when she was seven years old!

Kareli is the one talking to you in the videos!



Kareli Montoya

Ballet Folklórico [FOH-KLOH-REE-KOH] means "folkloric dance." Folkloric means traditions, and traditions are passed along from grandparents to grandchildren.

Sometimes, you might see it spelled like **Baile Folklórico**. **Baile** is Spanish for "dance." **Ballet** is French for "dance."

Why do you think this California dance company uses the French spelling of dance?

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WHAT IS

BALLET FOLKLÓRICO?

Ballet Folklórico comes from Mexico and is hundreds of years old. Maybe even a thousand years old!

**The dances are special to Mexican culture.
Culture is the way of life of a group of people.**



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WHAT IS MARIACHI MUSIC?



The music of the mariachi band is a mixture of different indigenous, as well as European and African, elements. Mariachi song forms (such as the *bolero*, *canción ranchera*, *son*, *huapango*, *joropo*, and *danzón*) are always dictated by the rhythmic patterns that are performed by the guitar section of the group.

Mariachi bands are used for many different occasions, such as dances, weddings, and funerals.

The traditional mariachi has six to eight violins, two to three trumpets, one vihuela, one guitar, and one *guitarrón*.

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INSTRUMENTS

Instrument Improvisation

- Invite students to look around their room or the classroom and suggest items that could be used to make music.
- Collect suitable suggested items at the front or middle of the classroom so they are all together.
- Starting with the first object, invite students to brainstorm all the ways one could make a sound with the object. Some examples include tapping, blowing, plucking, hitting (with hands or a stick), shaking, scraping, banging together, etc.
- Demonstrate each suggested way of making a sound to show if it creates a desirable sound or not. Keep track of what works and what does not work for each object.
- Once all collected objects have been tested out, invite one student per object to take turns “playing” an instrument. Continue to rotate students until all have a chance to participate.

Discussion:

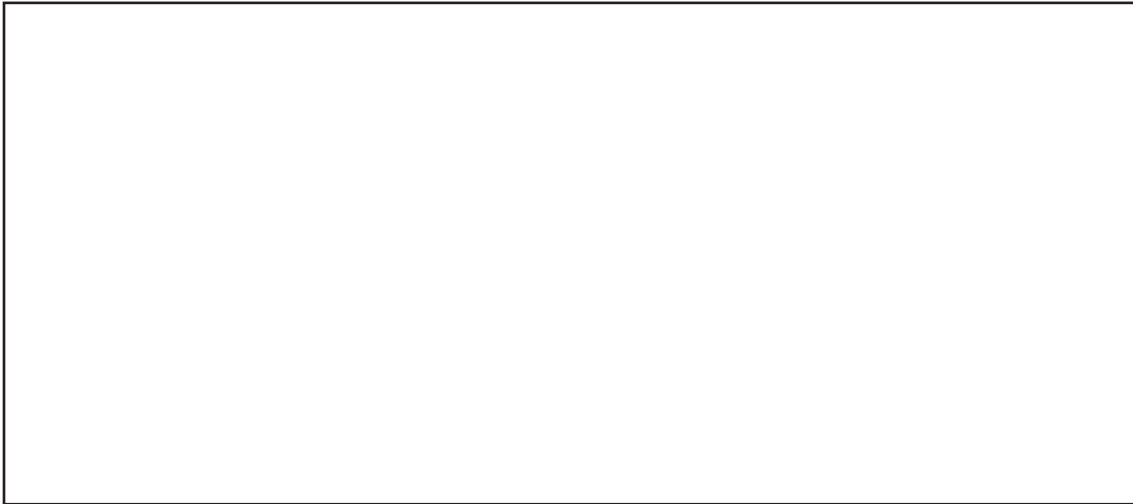
- What were some of the ways you made music with the found objects?
- Did anyone come up with surprising ideas?
- Did you get any new ideas from your classmates?

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WRITE A REVIEW!

.....
You are a reporter for your school's newspaper! Write and illustrate a review article to inform others about the performance you just saw. Name your article, illustrate a moment in the performance that stood out to you, and write about the experience!

Title: _____



I saw _____

I heard _____

The performance made me feel _____

The performance reminded me of _____

My favorite part of the performance was

I wish I had seen more _____

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Folklórico Podcast

<https://folkloricolosangeles.com/blog/2016/4/14/our-first-podcast-talking-folklorico-episode-1>

Folklórico Dance Tutorial

<https://folkloricolosangeles.com/blog/2016/6/23/tutorial-basic-steps-part-1>

Mariachi facts for kids

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Mariachi>

More about Mariachi for kids

<https://kidworldcitizen.org/mexican-mariachi-music/>