**Project - Traditional Music & Dance: Connections to History and Culture**

In this activity, students work individually to research and make presentations on folk dances from different cultures and time periods.

**Learning Goals:**

* Understand how dance is used to express culture and history
* Understand how dance is used to communicate stories, moods, and feelings

**Materials:**

* Internet access
* Library access or books about dance from different cultures and time periods
* CD/tape player (optional)
* Audio/visual equipment (optional)
* Materials to create props/scenery/costumes for presentations (optional)

**Preparation / Process:**

* Listen to the brief introduction to folk dances and explanation of how they connect to different cultures and time periods (Examples: ***Hula & Haka – watch***  video that demonstrates the dance, or play the music that accompanies the dance, and **discuss** question answers and where to find)
* Generate a list of various folk dances from different cultures and time periods. **One folk dance for each student**. Examples include:
	+ *Bhangra*
	+ *Polka*
	+ *El Jarabe Tapatio*
	+ *Contra dance*
	+ *Salp'uri*
	+ *Ribbon dance*
	+ *Adzohu*
	+ *Irish jig*
	+ *Troika*
* Select a folk dance, and use resources to find and share answers to the following questions your folk dance:
1. What does this dance look like? (include movements and costume)
2. What music traditionally accompanies this dance?
3. What culture and people traditionally perform this dance? Why?
4. When was this dance developed?
5. What was occurring in this place and culture during that time period?
6. Does this dance tell a story? If so, what?
7. What else about the history and/or culture does this dance express?
* Each person will **research one dance**, using the Internet and books to find information and answer the questions. (keep track of resources used for **bibliography**!)
* Once research is complete and the questions have been answered, students will need to **create a presentation** using what they have learned about their dance.
* Presentations must provide the **historical and cultural context** for the dance and **answer the questions**.
* **Show us or teach us something!** Perform the dance LIVE, show the dance on a video, play the music that accompanies the dance, or draw or act out what was happening in history that may have inspired the dance.