Congo Square Listening Circles | Student Dance Brief

K–2 | Louisiana Dance & Movement Lab | circle formations and response | 2–4 sessions of 35–60 minutes

Your movement challenge

Create an original listening circle using teacher-generated rhythm and space changes without imitating historic ritual

What to investigate

Congo Square history, African diasporic traditions and respectful interpretation

Technical focus

circle formations and response

Before you dance

01. Name one movement you observe in a credited source and one thing you do not yet know.
02. Show a safe four-count baseline phrase.
03. Experiment with three different movement qualities or spatial directions.

Create and improve

01. Plan a short original sequence with a beginning, a change, and an ending.
02. Apply circle formations and response and rehearse the movement challenge.
03. Request one observation and one question from a peer, then make one significant change.

Turn in

Movement score or sketch; three trials; final performance/filmed excerpt/accessible notation; source credit; annotated revision; reflection.

Reflect

01. How did circle formations and response improve from beginning to end?
02. Who is credited for the tradition?
03. Which movement is your own invention?
04. How did you make choices safe and inclusive?

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