

## Activity One

Teachers: read the information on the websites listed below before starting your activity sequence with students.

Divide students into 3 groups of approximately 5 or 6. If your class is larger increase the numbers but make sure each group will fit into a final performance slot of 10 minutes. Describe each group as a research and performance community in which each student will have a creative task that will add to an overall group outcome.

A. In class conduct a discussion around these questions:

When do you dance?

How does it make you feel?

Does anyone in your family like to dance?

Dance anyone you know not like to dance?

Do you know why?

Is dancing for boys or girls? Why?

What are the most popular dance styles?

Can you imagine how dance might tell us something about how people relate to their environment and each other?

Do you think dancing well requires a lot of training?

What are some popular reality TV shows that focus on dance?

For homework, direct students in their groups to divide up responsibilities for the following tasks:

1. Research the role of dance in Pacific Island societies using

**Dances of Life website** at <http://www.piccom.org/dancesoflife/>

**Holo Mai Pele** website at

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/gperf/shows/holomaipele/holomaipele.html>

**Culture Moves! Dance in Oceania from hiva to hip hop** at

[www.hawaii.edu/cpis/dance](http://www.hawaii.edu/cpis/dance)

A useful news story from New Zealand on Culture Moves! is also available on line at

[http://tvnz.co.nz/view/video\\_popup\\_windows\\_skin/703537?bandwidth=128k](http://tvnz.co.nz/view/video_popup_windows_skin/703537?bandwidth=128k)

After reviewing this students should be able to name 3 styles of Pacific dance, identify which islands and communities they represent and what they think dance means to them.

2. Research the role of dance in American society using

**Free to Dance** website at <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/freetodance/>

**Hip Hop History 101** at

<http://www.daveyd.com/historyphysicalgrafittifabel.html>

**Great Performances** at <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/gperf/genre/dance.html>

**More resources online** are listed at

<http://www.learnquebec.ca/en/content/curriculum/arts/dance/resources/danceculture.html>

Students should be able to name 3 styles of dance, identify which aspects of American society or history they represent and what they think dance means for those who devote their lives to dancing.