

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Ballet: The Graceful Dance of History and Technique

### Short Answer Key

1. Ballet originated in the Italian Renaissance in the 15th century, with early performances as courtly entertainment at royal courts. "Le Ballet Comique de la Reine" in 1581 marked a significant development, featuring a coherent storyline and female dancers.
2. Key characteristics of ballet include precise technique and form, pointe work, grace and fluidity, storytelling through dance, classical repertoire, and elaborate costumes and sets.
3. Pointe work allows female dancers to dance on the tips of their toes, creating the illusion of floating and adding to ballet's ethereal quality.
4. Two famous classical ballets are "Swan Lake," which tells the story of a princess transformed into a swan, and "The Nutcracker," a magical holiday tale featuring a young girl's adventures.
5. Ballet's ability to convey emotions, tell stories through movement, and combine music, dance, and storytelling creates a captivating experience that transcends language barriers, making it timeless.

