

Name _____

Tapping into History: The World of Tap Dance

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Tap dance has evolved over time, reflecting changes in American culture and society. Initially rooted in African and European traditions, it became a popular form of entertainment in the United States and beyond. Its cultural significance lies in its ability to blend diverse influences and connect people through rhythm and movement.
2. Answers will vary but may include considerations such as the tempo, mood, and style of the music, as well as the dancer's personal connection to the music. Factors such as musicality, timing, and storytelling through dance may also be mentioned.
3. Answers will vary based on the chosen dance style. Students may discuss the unique characteristics of tap dance, such as the use of tap shoes and rhythmic beats, in comparison to the selected style. Differences in cultural influences and historical development can also be explored.
4. Tap dance is timeless because it combines rhythm, creativity, and self-expression in a way that captivates audiences. Its ability to communicate emotions and tell stories through sound and movement makes it a lasting and beloved art form. Additionally, its adaptability and incorporation of diverse influences keep it relevant and appealing to new generations of dancers and viewers.

