Main Topic: Arts
Sub Topic: Dance

- Look for the CD-ROM *Moorditj: Australian Indigenous Cultural Expressions* in your school teacher resource collection. It is an interactive resource which includes 300 artworks from 110 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists with teaching activities for each. Dance is one of the arts areas it explores.

- Brainstorm and concept map the various reasons why dance is embraced within all societies:
  - cultural
  - communication
  - celebration
  - religious
  - enjoyment

- After reading *Let’s Dance* from the Scholastic Reconciliation kit, list the reasons why dance is so important in Aboriginal cultures:
  - story
  - connection to Country
  - songlines
  - rites of Passage
  - trade
  - marriage

- Match the suggestions with the initial brainstorm

- The *Middle Primary Teachers’ Book* in the Scholastic Reconciliation kit contains activities related to the *Let’s Dance* text.

- Learn about contemporary Aboriginal dance with the *Bangarra Dance Theatre Educational CD Rom*. Identify the aspects which are similar and different to more traditional Aboriginal dance.

- Identify and list any of the factors evident in the picture book *Corroboree*.

- Research the origins of the word ‘corroboree’.
  - Are all Aboriginal dances called corroborees?
  - What are they called in the area where you are?

- Find out all you can about Aboriginal traditional dance
  - Is it always part of a ceremony or ritual?
  - Who dances? Women, men or both?
  - What is the role of children?
  - What is it called in Pigram Brother’s song “Moonlight”?

- Discuss whether European settlement has impacted on the ‘dances’ of Aboriginal communities? Are these ‘dances’ still performed now?

- Watch *Aeroplane Dance* video to see how a traditional dance has been adapted to commemorate a more recent event.

- Watch *Jardiwarpa: A Warlpiri Fire Ceremony*. The orchestration of Warlpiri ceremonies in this film challenges the concept that indigenous culture is
stagnant.


- Investigate a modern corroboree such as the Guringai Festival, Stompin Ground, Yeperenyeye Dreaming, Barunga Festival, Laura Festival, NARLA Knock Out, Survival, Coming of the Light, CROC Eisteddfod, NAIDOC.
  - What are the reasons for the event?
  - How does this event differ from the traditional cultural purpose of a corroboree?
  - Compare and contrast this occasion with a traditional corroboree [http://events.australia.com/Discover-Traditional-Corroboree.aspx](http://events.australia.com/Discover-Traditional-Corroboree.aspx)
  - Make a circle book to record your information.

- Invite a local Aboriginal dance group to come and perform at your school.

- Use the *Yongka Dance* activity from the *NNBNN* Kit. Make the appropriate props, practice and perform at a school assembly.

### Resources


- *Ceremony : The Djungguwan of Northeast Arnhem Land* (DVD) Film Australia, Lindfield, NSW, 2006


- *Jardiwarnpa, a Walpiri fire ceremony* (video) Film Australia, NSW, 2006. 55min.
• *Ka-wayawayama: aeroplane dance* (video) produced and directed by Trevor Graham. Film Australia, Lindfield, NSW. 1994. 59min.