

JANE FRANKLIN DANCE

The Migration Project

Integrating Movement with oral histories and civics

Program description

The Migration Project explores stories of relocation. Whether it is a family history dating back from multiple generations, or a recent relocation, something is shared through the 'pull' to find better opportunity or the 'push' to leave because of no choice. The extraordinary increase in global migration over the past 500 years has left traces in our DNA.

An immersive experience evolves as Jane Franklin Dance and voices from within the community share family histories. Individual stories by 15 community members of all ages are layered with music and embodied with movement. Three large fabric panels by visual artist Dawn Whitmore illustrate different landscapes: city, rural, and the landscape of transition.

Program goals and objectives:

The purpose of *The Migration Project* is to inspire students to explore family history, recognize and appreciate similarities and differences in experiences of relocation, and to encourage creativity and self-expression through verbal communication and oral history. An objective is appreciation for dance as non-verbal communication, as an artistic medium for self-expression, and as an art form that can be appreciated and observed from multiple viewpoints. The goal is to inspire students to communicate, to appreciate differences, and to value the diversity of American culture.

Program outline:

Introduction

"The American Dream"

The American Dream is rooted in the Declaration of Independence, which proclaims that "all men are created equal" with the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

In 1931, James Truslow Adams defined the American Dream: "life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement" regardless of social class or circumstances of birth.

It implies an opportunity to achieve prosperity through hard work; the opportunity for one's children to grow up and receive a good education and career without artificial barriers. It is the opportunity to make individual choices without the prior restrictions that limited people according to their class, caste, religion, race, or ethnicity.

Place

- a. How many of you were born in Arlington County?
- b. How many of you have parents that were born in Arlington County?
- c. How many of you have grandparents that were born in Arlington County?

Language

- a. How many speak English?
- b. How many speak English and Spanish?
- c. How many speak another language?

Non-verbal communication and movement

- a. Gesture – upper body movements and communication
- b. Relationship – personal space, general space, shared space

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1. The American Quilt –

Migrate Like Animals – communities that share commonality - speaking the same language, like birds flocking

Unison movement –moving as one

Immigrants – a person who comes to a country to take up permanent residence

[Citizenship through Naturalization](#)

Kale – family farm – change in landscape over the years

(**Desegregation** is the process of ending the separation of races. The [American Civil Rights Movement](#), and the United States Supreme Court's decision in [Brown v. Board of Education](#), desegregated the school systems and the military.)

2. Generation 0 –

It's a Struggle – The Pavilion by the Weenie Beanie ([Shirlington Education and Employment Center](#)- SEEC offers vocational, English and job related courses and facilitates pairing employers and employees) - finding employment, starting a new life

[The Golden Rule](#) – Reciprocity “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

Movement language - a ‘handshake,’ a supportive embrace

Daniel Boone – Tracking your family history and ancestry

upheaval of constant relocation– Military families –

Irish Cop – Driver's license –

“On August 1, 1910, North America's first licensing law for motor vehicles went into effect in the US state of New York. In July 1913, the state of New Jersey became the first to [require all drivers to pass a mandatory examination before receiving a license.](#)”

3. Home Learned

Introvert – [Cultural diversity](#)

Moving as one – a design is created by individual movement, but distinct phrases are performed in unison.

Cocktail – [practice of more than one religion](#) – religious tradition and interfaith marriage

4. Moving

Maid of Honor – the person providing emotional support as well as fulfilling organizational tasks in preparation for a marriage ceremony.

Big Family – Generations related by birth

Green Card – [Permanent Resident](#): Immigration Status of an individual authorized to live and work in the United States permanently.

Prohibition – 18th Amendment of the United States Constitution repealed in 1933 by the ratification of the Twenty-First Amendment -

Prohibition Act – the outlawing of alcoholic beverages between 1920 – 1933

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1. Relationship to core curriculum:

Civics

- 3.10 The student will recognize the importance of government in the community, Virginia, and the United States of America by
- explaining the purpose of rules and laws;
 - explaining that the basic purposes of government are to make laws, carry out laws, and decide if laws have been broken;
 - explaining that government protects the rights and property of individuals.
- 3.11 The student will explain the importance of the basic principles that form the foundation of a republican form of government by
- describing the individual rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and equality under the law;
 - identifying the contributions of George Washington; Thomas Jefferson; Abraham Lincoln; Rosa Parks; Thurgood Marshall; Martin Luther King, Jr.; and Cesar Chavez;
 - recognizing that Veterans Day and Memorial Day honor people who have served to protect the country's freedoms,
 - describing how people can serve the community, state, and nation.
- 3.12 The student will recognize that Americans are a people of diverse ethnic origins, customs, and traditions, who are united by the basic principles of a republican form of government and respect for individual rights and freedoms.

PRE AND POST PERFORMANCE ACTIVITY

The American Dream

- Library of Congress. American Memory. "[What is the American Dream?](#)", [lesson plan](#).
- Kamp, David (April 2009). "[Rethinking the American Dream](#)". Vanity Fair. [Archived](#) from the original on May 30, 2009. Retrieved June 20, 2009.
- Leara D. Rhodes, The Ethnic Press: Shaping the American Dream (Peter Lang Publishing; 2010)

Path to Citizenship

Naturalization Policies and Procedures: <https://www.uscis.gov/policymanual/HTML/PolicyManual-Volume12-PartA-Chapter1.html>

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

[Creative Dance For All Ages](#) by Anne Green Gilbert
[Teaching the Three R's](#) by Ann Green Gilbert

Artists whose work appears in the show:

Mark Sylvester, composer: <http://www.marksylvester.net/>
Dawn Whitmore, visual artist: <https://arlingtonartscenter.org/studios/residentartists/dawn-whitmore>
David Schulman, composer: <http://www.schulmancreative.com/music/>
Haskell Small, composer: <http://haskellsmall.com/>