Dance Designs

Dance designs are the features of dance forms and dances. Analyzing a dance design begins with observing the ways that the elements of dance (space, time, energy) are used within the dance.

Other dance design elements you should identify include the following:

* Type of movements or steps
* Number of people and their gender
* Relationships and formation
* Dance structure
* Dance genre
* Relationship of the movement or steps to the accompaniment
* Clothing (costumes or street wear) and personal accessories (such as fans or handkerchiefs) used in the dance
* The performance space and time of performance (if important)

Some of these items may seem familiar. They are presented from the point of view of what you observed and determined from your viewing of a dance. When analyzing the dance design in relation to society, ask these questions:

* Does the dance relate to community as a whole or a segment of society?
* How does the dance relate to the historical era, the religious, economic, cultural, and social features of society in that place or region?
* Is the dance performed as entertainment, amusement, a life event, a religious ritual, a cultural expression (of work, military themes, fertility, or another theme), or as a performing art?

Write a summary paragraph of the dimensions of the dance selected from this historical period.

# Extension Activity

Summarize two different dances from the same period, from different places or regions, from two different parts of the same century, or from two different historical eras in different centuries. Following the summary of each dance, write a summary of their similarities, differences, and other findings.