

Teaching Artist Lesson, Part One

Turkey Dance Freeze

Developed by: Annie “Miss Annie” Wilson

Artform(s): Dance/Movement, Music, Puppetry, Storytelling

Description

In part one of a two-part series, students will use movements and imagination to become a turkey.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Demonstrate understanding of movement words through mimicking.
- Practice good listening skills by following directions.
- Increase fine and gross motor skills through movements.
- Learn the three components of a story: beginning, middle, and end.

Students’ Prior Knowledge Necessary For This Experience

- Students should be able to recognize a turkey and describe how it moves.

Vocabulary

Arts Vocabulary:

- Imagination / concept development.
- Collaboration / working as a group.
- Personal space awareness.

Curriculum Content Vocabulary:

- Strut: to stand up straight, thumb under armpit, move shoulders forward and back, lift legs.
- Gobble: use your voice to make a funny turkey sound.
- Wobble: bend knees, move in and out, shake arms.

Materials Needed

- Web link: [Turkey Dance Freeze Video](#)

Lesson Plan

Introduction & Warm Up

- Students meet Louie, Miss Annie’s puppet friend.
 - “Louie is my name, and friends are my game. I live in a cactus condo in the Southwest desert. It is really hot there, however, it is getting close to the fall season. We start to think about cooler weather, holidays, pumpkins, turkeys and how lucky we are to have what we have.”
 - “Today, you will learn a different way to tell a story. You will use your imagination and pretend to be a turkey. Let’s talk turkey now. Gobble, gobble. The most fun will be to do the Turkey Dance Freeze. Ready? Remember freeze means STOP! I’ll see you later.

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Note to teachers: Whatever puppet you use to introduce the activity should be your own special puppet that only you operate. He or she comes out only to co-teach a specific subject or make a special point. Sing a simple song you make up, or use specific music to announce your puppet. *I often introduce Louie with a song and guitar, “Off to the Cactus Condo” (original).

Main Experience

- Ask students to find a space where they can hold their hands out and not touch anyone else.
- To get ready to move, students must stand, do a short stretch, and be good listeners.
- Demonstrate the movements without the music or video.
 - Two steps forward, and then two steps back.
 - Shake your tail feathers. Students bend knees, poke out bottom backwards, and shake.
 - Tap, tap, tap. Tap toes on the floor three times (either foot is fine).
 - Strut, strut, strut. Stand straight, put nose in air, thumbs under armpit, move shoulders up and down while lifting knees up and down.
 - Gobble, gobble, gobble. Say the words to make the sound of a turkey.
 - Flapping our wings. Put your fingers under your armpits and raise arms up and down.
 - Wobble, wobble, wobble—make your entire body “wobble.” Move knees in and out.
 - Doing the Turkey Dance freeze. Stop what you are doing, make a funny pose, and “freeze”.
- Practice a few times before dancing with the music.
- The music will begin, we will listen, and then we will repeat and demonstrate the directions.
- When the artist says “Two steps forward,” we will repeat what is said and take two steps forward. When we hear two steps back, we will say “two steps back” and take two steps back.
- Follow along with the artist by listening to the instructions, repeating the instructions, and moving your body.

Wrap Up

- Today we did the Turkey Dance Freeze to learn how turkeys move.
- We also learned that a story has a beginning, a middle, and an end.
- Next time Louie and I visit, we will share the story of Timmy Turkey.
- Timmy Turkey listened to all his friends, took in their suggestions, and then put all the thoughts together to make himself a very special turkey. We will find out why and what he did. You will even have a part to play in telling of the story.
- Before we leave, let’s learn how to make a turkey handshake with a friend. With one hand, have your friend spread the fingers wide; these are the feathers. Now make a fist, with thumb pointing outward. That is the body of the turkey. Put the body next to the wide-spread fingers and say “gobble, gobble, gobble.”
- Try this with a friend. One of you spread your fingers wide, the other makes the turkey body. Connect and both say “gobble, gobble, gobble.”
- Next time, we will meet Louie again and hear the story of Timmy Turkey. Until then, be kind to yourself, believe in yourself, and be kind to others.
- Closing, bidding you farewell wishes song by Miss Annie.

Intentional Questions

Open-Ended

- What events are celebrated in the fall?
- How does the weather change in the fall?
- What did you enjoy about the Turkey Dance Freeze?

Problem Solving

- How can you improve doing the Turkey Dance Freeze?
- What other ways can you “freeze” your body at the end of the dance?

Factual Questions

- What sound do turkeys make?
- How do turkeys move?