

UNIT PLAN BRAINSTORM



Now, It's Time for the Breakdown! (Dance, Music, Visual Art, Social Studies)

Hip-hop is an art form that responds to current events. From its inception in the Bronx in the 1970s, hip-hop has been used to comment on the current socio-political climate, empowering People of Color to take charge of the news that is shared within their communities and disrupting narratives told from an external gaze and the mainstream media. With this in mind, work with your class to create news stories using the elements of hip-hop! First, prompt your students to pick a story in the news that they are passionate about. This could be individually, in small groups or as a class. Once they've chosen their news story, ask them to consider the elements of hip-hop: breaking, MCing, DJing and graffiti art. Which art form would highlight their information best? Do they want to rap about it? Tell the story through dance? Maybe their report is a combination of several elements! Give your class ample creation and rehearsal time to make a hip-hop piece that speaks to their current event. Afterwards, put on a news hour for another class where each group presents their segment to give a full update on the news of today.

To support this unit, use the Move It, Name It, Tell It! Activity in the Respond and Connect section.

Dance Dance Revolution (Dance, Music, Social Studies)

If a picture says a thousand words, then a dance tells a whole history! Task your students to connect with their community through dance by learning about a dance important to their family or heritage. This may be a traditional dance from another country, a dance they do at family gatherings, a style they see in their neighborhood or a fun video from social media. Start with a round robin where each student shares (or teaches a few moves from) their chosen dance. Then, ask your class to get on their feet and try it out! Have fun combining all the different styles of dance to create a melting pot of different cultures and movements. You can even experiment with putting your class's movements to different types of music! To culminate, have a cypher in your class where students can go in the center and show off their favorite moves that they learned.

To support this unit, use Dance Remix Challenge Activity in the Discover and Create section.

Hip-Hop Scavenger Hunt (Dance, Music, Social Studies)

From graffiti to music to fashion, hip-hop is all around us! With your students, explore where hip-hop lives in your neighborhood and the world at large. Have a discussion with your students about what hip-hop is and how it came to be. Explain the four elements of hip-hop: breakdancing, MCing, DJing and graffiti art. Afterwards, source modern hip-hop artists that your class knows to help give relevant examples. Now, it's time to go on a scavenger hunt! Task your students with going out into their communities to find examples of hip-hop in the world around them. This could be graffiti on their street, rap music playing at the store, or b-boys and b-girls in the park. Afterwards, invite students to share where they observed hip-hop in their lives. Then, print out a large map (or create your own using chart paper) of your school's neighborhood and decorate all these "hip" spots with your class's own style of graffiti, using markers and pens!

To support this unit, use the Stylin' My Fit Creativity Page in the Respond and Connect section.