

Lesson Plan

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Description of Student Work: Learn the basic history of ballet and the reason most ballet steps have French names. We will use *Pas de chat* as our example.

- ¥ Read the story [Ballet Cat](#) by Fiona Ross.
- ¥ Execute pas de chat correctly, and understand its meaning (translation). Visualize how pas de chat looks like a cat.
- ¥ Improvise movement, including pas de chat, in short phrases. Share with classmates.
- ¥ Create the pas de chat cat puppet craft, allowing hip and knee joints to move so that the cat can execute his/her own pas de chat.

Standards Addressed:

DA:Cr2.1.PK.a $\text{\textcircled{D}}$ improvise dance that starts and stops on cue

DA:C43.1.K.b $\text{\textcircled{D}}$ depict a dance movement by drawing a picture or using a symbol

DA:Pr5.1.PK.b $\text{\textcircled{D}}$ move in general space and start and stop on cue while maintaining personal space

DA:Pr5.1.K.c $\text{\textcircled{D}}$ move body parts in relation to other body parts and repeat and recall movement upon request

DA:Pr6.1.K.a $\text{\textcircled{D}}$ dance for and with others in a designated space

DA:Pr8.1.K.a $\text{\textcircled{D}}$ observe movement and describe it using simple dance terminology

DA:Cn11.1.2.a $\text{\textcircled{D}}$ observe a dance (step) and relate the movement to the people or environment in which the dance was created or performed

Assessment Criteria:

Teaching Required

Prior Knowledge/Warm-Up: Read the book Ballet Cat, and discuss basic ballet history and French terminology. Execute some of the basic ballet steps seen in the book as a warm-up activity. Emphasize hips and knees, and that these joints are also the joints that will move for the cat puppet craft.

Exploring New Knowledge:

- ¥ Teacher instructs pas de chat step for students to repeat and execute on their own.
- ¥ Teacher leads improvisation, encouraging students to incorporate pas de chat movement in improvisation.
- ¥ Students are split into two groups (one dancing, one observing). Students practice appropriate audience etiquette as their classmates share improvisational skills and steps.

Cool-Down/Reflection on Learning: Use some of the students' favorite improvised movements at a slower tempo to cool down. Review pas de chat movement as a *slow cat*. Create the cat puppet craft, using the cat puppet to execute the pas de chat.

Resources Needed:

- Book: http://www.amazon.com/Ballet-Cat-Fiona-Ross/dp/1406354538/ref=sr_1_8?ie=UTF8&qid=1436046721&sr=8-8&keywords=ballet+cat&pebp=1436046811651&perid=043296VV2E46XHNF99MT
- Studio space, sound system
- Cat craft directions and materials: <http://www.craftideas.com/projects/details/6561/cat-dog-puppets>

