



# Rap A Tap Tap

## Rhythm, Rhyme, Black History

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K – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades

Dance / Language Arts/Social Studies

### Objective:

In a 45-minute class students will develop a deeper understanding of rhythm and rhyme by creating a dance based on the book Rap A Tap Tap Think of That! By Leo & Diane Dillon.

### Core Curriculum

#### Language Arts - 3rd Grade

##### Standard 3

Phonological and Phonemic Awareness- Students develop phonological and phonemic awareness.

##### Objective 1

Demonstrate phonological awareness. Identify a series of rhyming words.

#### Social Studies

##### Standard 2

Students will understand cultural factors that shape a community.

#### Dance

##### Standard 3

(Creating): The student will improvise, create, perform, and respond to movement solutions in the art form of dance.

##### Objective 1

Explore the process of making a dance.

##### Standard 4

(Contextualizing): The student will understand and demonstrate dance in relation to its historical and cultural origins.

### Materials:

Book: Rap A Tap Tap Think of That! By Leo & Diane Dillon.

Drum

Claves for each Student

### Introduction:

Explain that when African people were brought to the United States they brought their culture with them. They did not bring any luggage, but they brought their traditions. One tradition was dancing and drumming.

**Warm up:**

Give a set of claves to each student. Read selected pages to your students and help them keep the beat as you read. Have them memorize the pages. Repeat as many times as necessary. Ask them what words rhyme and pay attention on how all the phases fit the rhythm.

Explain that drumming and singing was a way for slaves to communicate secret messages to each other. When the white people found this out, they took their drums away and the slaves were not allowed to play drums anymore.

So what do you think they did?

Take the claves away from your students and ask them how can they keep the beat now. Explore different ways of keeping the beat. Example: stomping, clapping, snapping, tapping on your belly, etc. This is the origin of Tap Dancing and Stomping.

**Explore and Create:**

As a class, have the students come up with a shape/pose or movement for each key word on text. Chose the interesting ones and put it together on a sequence. Have the whole class learn those shapes and do the sequence as everyone repeats the text.

Example:

Text: The once as man who danced in the street.

Key words: **man** and **dance**. Chose a shape for man and for dance. For man usually students like to do the body builder arms shape. For dance they have a turn or a jump.

Text: Rap a Tap Tap –think of that!

For this I have them come up with some kind of way of stomping or body clapping. Make sure this sequence is fun and easy enough because it repeats many times.

Do this with as many pages as you like. I usually do 5 pages.

Repeat as many times as it is needed for them to know it very well.

**Perform:**

Divide the class in  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Take turns, one  $\frac{1}{2}$  performs and the other  $\frac{1}{2}$  plays the claves and says the text.

Before I give them the claves back, I usually tell them that slaves fought for their freedom, and they got it. So they can have the claves back.

If time allows do the “**Freeze Dance.**” Give them the sticks. Put on some up beat music. When the music is on, they dance anyway they want, when the music is off they freeze on a shape. When the music is off they play the beat of Rap A Tap Tap Think Of That together.

**Connect:**

Ask them what are some things that they value and what they would do if someone takes it away and they are not allowed to have any more. What are some things worth fighting for?

## RAP A TAP TAP text

There once was a man who danced in  
the street.

Rap a tap tap—think of that!

He brought pleasure and joy to the  
people he'd greet.

Rap a tap tap—think of that!

He didn't just dance, he made art  
with his feet.

Rap a tap tap—think of that!

Dance was his passion and it  
brought him fame.

Rap a tap tap—think of that!

Bojangles, Bojangles, that was  
his name.

Rap a tap tap—think of that!