

Choreography Activities

PA Standard - 9.1: Production, Performance and Exhibition of Dance, Music, Theater and Visual Arts

Analyze the "Sugar Plum Pas de Deux"

Resources:

["Sugar Plum Pas de Deux" video](#) on YouTube, American Ballet Theatre (the pas is (00:00 - 11:45))

Characteristics of Classical Ballet:

- Stresses prescribed steps and academic technique
- Women dance on pointe
- Turn-out of the legs and hips
- Upright torso
- Graceful, flowing movements
- Symmetry
- Precision, exactness, clarity of movement
- Athleticism

1. Review classical ballet characteristics. Watch the video and discuss how the movement that we see in the pas de deux can be characterized as classical ballet. Give specific examples.

2. Classical ballet pas de deux have a standard structure - the entrance (featuring both dancers), variations (or solos) by each dancer individually, and a coda, where dancers return to dance together once again. Have students identify each section and the characteristics that each dancer displays.

3. Musicality is the ability of the dancer to express the notes of the music with their movement. Where do we see examples of this in the pas de deux?