

AXÉ CAPOEIRA

TEACHER'S STUDY GUIDE (LINKED TO IRP'S)

Available in French or English

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE



Featuring traditional Brazilian music with upbeat vocals and instrumentals, Axe Capoeira showcases professional capoeiristas and dancers at the height of their skill. With exciting choreographed dances, internationally acclaimed capoeira, high-flying acrobatics, invigorating music and dazzling costumes, the group has enthralled audiences of all ages and sizes at thousands of schools, festivals, and theatres across the globe for more than 20 years.

THEMES:

- Brazil
- Capoeira
- Culture
- Dance
- Geography
- Language
- Movement
- Music
- Rhythm

CAPOEIRA

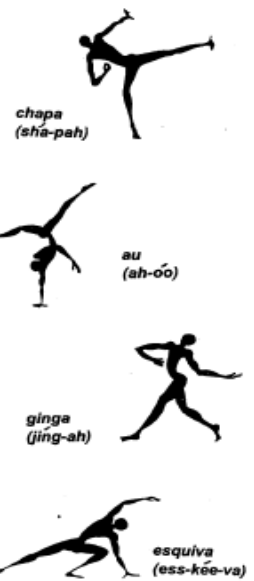
In the late 1500's, men and women from the West Coast of Africa were captured by Portuguese slave traders and brought to what is now known as Brazil. Almost immediately, they began dreaming of ways to gain their freedom and so developed a martial arts style that would eventually become known as "Capoeira" (kah-poo-AIR-ah). In order to hide this fighting style from their masters, the African slaves combined dance, music, ritual, acrobatics and martial arts into what appeared to the slave

owners to be a harmless game - a game that would eventually help the slaves gain their freedom.

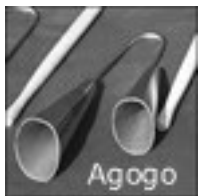
While dancing, leaping, spinning and striking at each other, two players move effortlessly within a circle of people who clap and sing. The music of drums and berimbau (an ancient, sacred, bow-like instrument) provide a haunting, hypnotic background for the action that is unfolding. Is it some sort of dance? Is it a game? Is it a fight? It is all of these, and

more - it's Capoeira.

Since its creation at the hands of the African slaves over four hundred years ago, Capoeira has evolved into one of the most hypnotic and interesting art forms to come out of Brazil. With its fluid movement, flashing kicks, and spine twisting acrobatics, Capoeira continues to win fans all over the world. Today, it can be seen in places as diverse as Israel, France, Japan, England, Argentina, Portugal, America, and of course, in Canada.



BRAZILIAN MUSIC



Agogo



Shekere



Tambourim



Surdo



berimbau

The native Indians with their reed flutes, the Portuguese with their singers and viola players, and the Africans with their many thrilling rhythms make-up what Brazil is today: a country rich with musical tradition.

Among the more popular traditional rhythms are the orixas, capoeira, samba, afixé, maculele and maracafu. Most of these rhythms are played on the atabaques, pandeiro, agogo, shequere, and the surdo. The rhythms of the capoeira are always accompanied by the berimbau (a bow like instrument) as well as the atabaque, and agogo.

THE BRAZILIAN PEOPLE

Brazilians are, perhaps, one of the most racially mixed peoples in the world.



Europeans, of mostly Portuguese descent, make up a large percentage of the population. The black population are descendants of African slaves (mostly from Yoruba and Quirimbundu origin) brought to Brazil before the 1880's.

The majority of the black population live in the northeastern provinces such as Bahia and Pernambuco, where the Dutch and French also settled. The Northeast is,

today, a region rich in folklore and traditions that have succeeded in blending the legends and beliefs of the early colonizers and slaves.

In the 19th century, groups of German, Italian and Japanese immigrants settled



in the southern region and still maintain ethnic communities. Most of the native Indians inhabit the Amazon region.

Many people all over Brazil have some Indian heritage through inter-marriage. All groups, however, have had a significant influence on Brazilian culture through religion, food, festivals, music and dance.

K-7 PRE-SHOW ACTIVITY — LANGUAGE (20 MINUTES)

In Brazil, we speak Portuguese

| | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------|-----------------|-------|
| Alo !/Ola ! | <i>ah-low / oh-la</i> | HELLO! | Um | <i>oom</i> | ONE |
| Adeus! | <i>ah-day-oos</i> | GOOD BYE! | Dois | <i>doh-ees</i> | TWO |
| Obrigado! | <i>oh-bree-gah-doo</i> | THANK YOU! | Tres | <i>trehz</i> | THREE |
| De nada | <i>juh nah-dah</i> | YOU'RE WELCOME | Quatro | <i>kwah-tro</i> | FOUR |
| Escola | <i>ess-koh-la</i> | SCHOOL. | Cinco | <i>sink-oo</i> | FIVE |
| Casa | <i>kah-zah</i> | HOUSE. | Seis | <i>sehz</i> | SIX |
| Menino | <i>meh-nee-noo</i> | BOY | Sete | <i>setch-eh</i> | SEVEN |
| Menina | <i>meh-nee-na</i> | GIRL | Oito | <i>oeetoo</i> | EIGHT |
| Canadense | <i>kah-nah-den-say</i> | CANADIAN | Nove | <i>noh-veh</i> | NINE |
| Brasileiro | <i>brah-zee-lair-roo</i> | BRAZILIAN | Dez | <i>dehz</i> | TEN |

K-7 POST-SHOW ACTIVITY — DANCE & SOCIETY (20—30 MIN.)

In the gymnasium or outside in an open area have the students form a large circle. Get a rhythm going with clapping and chanting (something they remember from the show) Then two people enter the circle and dance/spar around each other. Clapping and chanting continues. Two new people enter, and so on.

For more information visit the Axé Capoeira website: <http://axecapoeira.com/>

