

MATERIALS

- poster board
- variety of buttons
- glue (Tacky glue)
- stapler
- masking tape
- elastic (optional)

RESOURCES

- Museum of International Folk Art - online collections
<http://collection.internationalfolkart.org/collections>
- DoS-Dances of Spain, students resources
www.flamencodancearts.com/student-class-resources

VOCABULARY (Definitions on page 4)

- **Flamenco**
- **Duende**
- **Castanets**
- **Castanet - macho**
- **Castanet - hembra**
- **Escuela bolero**

Flamenco Dance Vocabulary

- **Floreo**
- **A fuera**
- **A dentro**
- **Palmas**
- **Sordas**
- **Claras**
- **Fuerte**
- **Pitos**
- **Palmeros/ras**
- **Taconeo**

NATIONAL VISUAL ARTS STANDARDS

- **Creating:** Conceiving and developing new artistic ideas and work.
- **Presenting:** Interpreting and sharing artistic work.
- **Responding:** Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning.
- **Connecting:** Relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.



Castanets, Spain, c. 1940-1950. This pair of castanets belonged to dancer La Argentinita and have been handed down to other dancers through the years. Courtesy of Julia Chacon. Photo by Blair Clark.

Flamenco, Castanets

INTRODUCTION

Flamenco is a folkloric dance that was handed down from generation to generation. Flamenco is supposed to be the outward expression of one's innermost emotions. It was originally performed within families or tight-knit communities, largely of *Gitano* (Spanish Romany) origin in southern Spain. Flamenco is characterized by intense emotion and feeling (*duende*).

OBJECTIVES

- To understand how castanets are used with flamenco dance movements (historical and cultural understanding).
- To discover different solutions in the process of creating button castanets (perceiving, analyzing, and responding).
- To learn how to pair buttons to generate unique rhythms (creating and performing).

A Regional Dance of Spain

Spanish music has been imbued with the sounds of many cultural traditions from Phoenician times (during the 1st century CE) to the present. *Flamenco* is one tradition of music and dance within the larger family of Spanish dances from the 50 provinces. These can be divided into four distinct categories: *escuela bolera*, folkloric/regional dances, *estilo andaluz* and *flamenco*. Like the *estilo andaluz* family of dances, flamenco comes from Spain's southernmost region, Andalucía.

Within the historical discourse on flamenco there is considerable debate regarding the amount of mixing that took place among regional dances, the various cultures of Spain, and traditions of pure Gitano origin. The earliest spread of a musical style particular to Andalucía took place at the beginning of the 2nd century CE when Spain was part of the Roman Empire. Later influences include Arabic, Christian and Sephardic musical styles. The Gitanos arrived during the medieval era bringing with them the cultures of India, Eastern Europe, and the Byzantine Empire, along with their own personal heritage. All of these traditions mixed with the music of southern Spain and became a part of the family of flamenco song and dance.



Fairgoers in Seville, Spain, 2012.



Map of Spain's regions. Image: Depositphotos

MOTIVATION

- Pass around a pair of castanets for students to explore. Discuss how they are used in conjunction with flamenco dance movements to create rhythms.
- Ask students to suggest other materials that might have been used to make castanets, i.e. shells, wood. Think about the shape and what it represents?

PROCEDURE

1. Start by cutting rectangles out of poster board about 4" to 5" long and about 1" to 1 1/4" wide.
2. Fold board paper in half so that it leaves a crease in the middle.
3. Choose a pair of buttons and glue with Tacky Glue; one button on each end, on the inside of the poster board. Let dry well enough so the buttons don't slide on cardboard.
4. Make several pairs with different kinds of buttons and notice how the sound is unique with each one.
5. **Optional:** Cut elastic 3" to 3 1/4" long and staple on both sides about an 1" from the end, then pull the elastic over and around the poster board rectangle. Use colored tape on exposed staple prongs.
6. Choose a pair of buttons and glue with Tacky Glue; one button on each end, on the inside of the poster board. Make several pairs.



EVALUATION

- Play Flamenco dance music or a favorite song and have students use their button castanets to create click rhythms in harmony. Blend button castanet rhythms with dance movements.

EXTENTIONS & CONNECTIONS

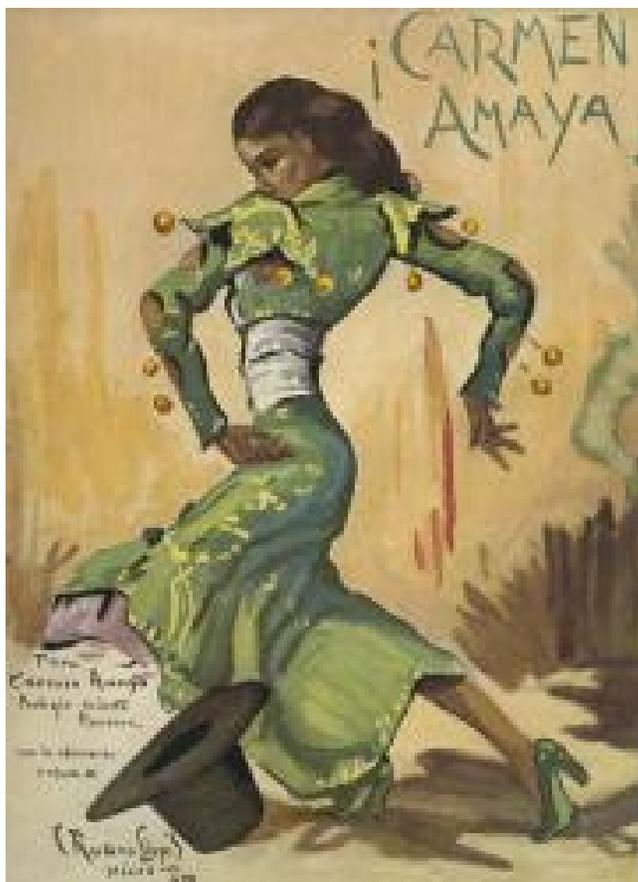
- Have students discuss types of dance they have seen or actively participate in.
- What are the origins, meanings of the dances and times of year they are performed, i.e, celebrations, ceremonies, etc.?

VOCABULARY

1. **Flamenco**- is a folkloric dance that was handed down from generation to generation.
2. **Duende** - spirit of flamenco
3. **Castanets**- are percussive instruments that date back to Roman times in Spain. The earliest versions were made of bronze or shell and consist of two hollowed pieces held together with string.
4. **Castanet / Macho** (male)- the lower toned castanet, played on the left hand and provides the base, or downbeat, rhythm.
5. **Castanet / Hembra** (female) - the higher pitched castanet, played on the right hand and creates the roll or galloping type sound.
6. **Escuela bolero** - 18th century classical court dancing.

Flamenco Dance Vocabulary

1. **Floreo** (Flo-RAY-oh) - flowering hand movements
2. **A Fuera**(Ah-FWEY-rah) - outward hand movement
3. **A Dentro**(Ah-THEN-troh) - inward hand movement
4. **Palmas**(PAHL-muss) - rhythmic hand-clapping
5. **Sordas**(SOR-thas) - muted (literally: "deaf") referring to softer hand clapping
6. **Claros**(CLA-rass) - bright and clear, referring to loud hand clapping
7. **Fuerte** (FWARE-te) - strong hard
8. **Pitos** (PEE-tohss) - finger snapping
9. **Palmeros/as** (Pahl-MARE-os/as) - men/woman that clap while musicians play
10. **Taconeo**(Tah-cone-AY-oh) - footwork in general



Program for Carmen Amaya performance, ca. 1950s.
Courtesy of Vivian Alarid Cuadra and Pedro Cuadra. Photo
by Blair Clark.

Flamenco

Flamenco is a folkloric dance that was handed down from generation to generation. Flamenco is supposed to be the outward expression of one's innermost emotions. It was originally performed within families or tight-knit communities, largely of *Gitano* (Spanish Romany) origin in southern Spain. Flamenco is characterized by intense emotion and feeling (*duende*). Many describe flamenco as a way of life. Families and community members interact through song, music, and dance.

Today most of us experience flamenco as a performance art seen in the theater. It is most recognized by its passionate temperament and highly intricate footwork, referred to as *taconeo*. It incorporates the high carriage of the body with extended shoulders and outstretched arms. The dancer uses his/her/their body as a musical instrument. The dance and music are accompanied by *brazeo* (arm work), *floreo* (hand and finger movements), *palmas* (handclapping) and *pitos* (finger snapping).

In New Mexico, flamenco has found a home away from home. Now several generations of dancers and musicians hand the tradition down to students and younger family members. Private jam sessions (called *juerga*) and flamenco parties exist alongside with professional performances in small nightclub venues and large theaters. The *duende*, or spirit of flamenco, is forever etched in the minds and hearts of New Mexicans.



Posters for spring festivities in Seville, Spain, 1904 and 1943. Posters such as these advertised *Semana Santa* (Holy Week), the April Fair, and the opening of the spring bull fighting season.

CASTANETS

Castanets are percussive instruments that date back to Roman times in Spain. The earliest versions were made of bronze or shell and consist of two hollowed pieces held together with string. Versions dating to the 18th century were made of hardwood. In the 20th and 21st centuries castanets have been made of wood, compressed nylon, or other compressed fibers. Each pair is carved by hand and are tuned to each other. They are played in pairs with one castanet on each hand. The lower toned castanet (referred to as the *macho*, or male) is played on the left hand and provides the base, or downbeat, rhythm. The higher pitched castanet (referred to as the *hembra*, or female) is played on the right hand and creates the roll or galloping type sound. Castanets were most commonly used in the 18th century classical court dancing called *escuela bolero* and, regional folkloric dances. Flamenco dancers also used, castanets, during the 19th and 20th centuries. In New Mexico today, they are used in classical Spanish dance, Flamenco, and are incorporated by Hispano Rock bands.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chavez, Nicolasa. *The Spirit of Flamenco: From Spain to New Mexico*. Santa Fe, NM: Museum of New Mexico Press, 2015.

Hayes, Michelle Heffner. *Flamenco: Conflicting Histories of the Dance*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2009.

Pohren, D.E. *The Art of Flamenco*. Madrid, Spain: Society of Spanish Studies, 1990.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Keeler, Patricia A., and Júlio T. Leitão. *Drumbeat in Our Feet*. Lee & Low, 2014.

Reicherter, Daryn. *CAMBODIAN DANCER: Sophany's Gift of Hope*. TUTTLE Publishing, 2018.

Tonatiuh, Duncan. *Danza!: Amalia Hernández and El Ballet Folklórico De México*. Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2017.

Witte, Anna, and Micha Archer. *Lola's Fandango*. Barefoot Books, 2018.

WEBSITES

Museum of International Folk Art - online collections
<http://collection.internationalfolkart.org/collections>

DoS - Dances of Spain - students resources
www.flamencodancearts.com/student-class-resources

VIDEOS / FILMS

Flamenco. A film by Carlos Saura, 1995.

Flamenco, Flamenco. A film by Carlos Saura, 2010.

Flamenco School: Bringing an Hispanic Tradition to America. A film by Brent Morris and Reinhard Lorenz, 2011. {51 minutes}
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rb-a_8mafvs

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Dancewear, Accessories, Instruments & More

www.deflamenco.com	Spain
www.esflamenco.com	Madrid, Spain
www.mariachiconnection.com	San Antonio, TX

Flamenco Dance Instruction

Santa Fe

María Benítez Institute for Spanish Arts, Academy at Larragoite, www.institutespanisharts.org

Santa Fe Dance Works,
www.santafedanceworks.com

Santa Fe School of Flamenco,
www.entreflamenco.com

Albuquerque

Casa Flamenca, www.casaflamenca.org

National Institute of Flamenco,
www.nationalinstituteofflameno.org

Taos

Domino Martinez Flamenco Class,
www.flamencodenuvomexico.org