



### Segment 2 (Units 1–4)

#### *Light on their feet*

**Genre:** Documentary (within a sports/dance competition broadcast)      *Viewing Time: 3:05*

#### **Background Information**

This segment is a short documentary on different types of dance around the world. It is intended to entertain viewers of an international ballroom dance competition during a break in the competition.

#### **Cultural Information**

All cultures have rich traditions of music and dance. This show describes some popular dances from different cultures and explains the significance of dance. A key concept in the documentary is the idea that dance is universal and fills many social needs.

#### **Vocabulary for Comprehension**

*Preview the vocabulary with your students.*

audience: *the people watching or listening to a concert, speech, movie, etc.*

competitor: *a person, team, company, etc. that is competing with another*

costume: *the clothes that are typical of a particular period of time, a country, an activity, etc.*

court: *the official place where a king or queen lives and works*

graceful: *moving in smooth and attractive way*

growth: *an increase or development in size, quality, amount, or importance*

have two left feet: *be very uncoordinated or clumsy*

ribbon: *a long narrow piece of cloth, used for tying things or as a decoration*

steps: *the movements of your feet in dancing*

#### **Answer Key**

*Previewing* (Answers may vary—as long as they are appropriate guesses, accept them for now.)

1. They are dancers.
2. They are in Mexico, Thailand, New Zealand, Europe, Germany, Spain, Argentina, Ghana, and the United States.
3. They are performing different types of dances.
4. It's about different kinds of dances from around the world.

#### *In-Depth Viewing*

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| 1. b | 2. d | 3. a | 4. f | 5. c | 6. e |
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### Video Script

**Doug:** . . . What a performance *that* was! In a few moments, we'll find out whether they made it to the final round. While we wait, let's check in with our reporter, Liza Roberts, who has a report on dance around the world. Liza?

**Liza:** Well, Doug, from New Zealand to Mexico, to Spain, to Japan, dance is universal—it's something you can find in just about every culture in the world. Nowadays, lots of people dance just for fun. But in many countries around the world, dance is very important for other reasons.

Dancers around the world use many different steps, and they play all kinds of musical instruments. When traditional dancers in Ghana celebrate life in their community and tell its stories, both children and adults join in.

Traditional dancers like this group from Mexico often dress in colorful traditional costumes. Sometimes they also use special objects in their dances. These Mexican dancers are dancing with fruit and birds.

Sometimes dances tell stories. For example, the Maori people of New Zealand perform this dance, called the haka, for visitors. It shows how frightening Maori warriors are in battle.

In Germany, the maypole is a symbol of spring and new growth. In May, couples dance around the pole. Look at all those ribbons! This is a difficult dance to do well!

Other types of dance are just for entertainment. In Thailand, entertainers first danced for the royal family of old Siam. Now everyone enjoys the dancers' beautiful costumes and graceful movements.

The first ballet dancers also performed only for kings and queens, but in the royal courts of Europe. Nowadays, they perform for large audiences all over the world. Professional ballet dancers have to start learning ballet when they are very young.

Luckily, not all types of dance are as hard to learn as ballet. If you're interested in learning how to dance, take dance lessons. It's a lot of fun—even if you have two left feet! And if you feel like it, you can invent your own dance steps!

. . . And now, back to you, Doug, for more on the International Ballroom Dance Competition!

**Doug:** Thanks, Liza! I think our judges are ready now, so let's find out what they thought of our last three competitors.