

Worksheet 1

(Suitable for use after Unit 1 of New English Parade Level 6)

Read and write about Katherine Dunham.

Katherine Dunham says that people dance because of a basic need for motion. Dunham was born in Joliet, Illinois, in 1909. She went to college and graduate school at the University of Chicago. She was one of the first African Americans to go to that university. She is a popular performer and teacher of modern dance. In 1931, she started her own dance school in Chicago. She was a pioneer in making the performance of dances from the Caribbean and Brazil popular in the United States.

Dunham was in the Broadway musical *Cabin in the Sky* in 1940. In 1943, her dance group appeared in the Broadway show *A Tropical Revue*. In 1969, Dunham created the Katherine Dunham Centres for the Arts in East St. Louis, Illinois. She has entertained many people through seven films and more than 100 dance productions that she created.

1. • **1909** **Katherine Dunham was born in**
_____.
2. • _____ **She started a _____ in**
_____.
3. • **1940** **She starred in the Broadway musical**
_____.
4. • **1943** **Her dance group performed in**
_____.
5. • _____ **She created _____**

_____ **in _____, Illinois.**



Language aims
Reading a life history

Procedure

- 1 Ask pupils a few questions about their lives, for example when they were born, what year they started school. Explain that they are going to read about the life of a famous dancer, Katherine Dunham.
- 2 Distribute the worksheets and read the biography with the class. Pupils then read the biography again. They use the key dates and events to complete the summary of her life, filling in the blanks.

Key

1. Joliet, Illinois 2. 1931, dance school, Chicago 3. *Cabin in the Sky* 4. *A Tropical Revue* 5. 1969, the Katherine Dunham Centres for the Arts in East St. Louis, Illinois