



Northrop Matinee

In Partnership with The Ordway

Step Afrika! *Drumfolk* Oct 12-13, 2023

Intended Audience: Grades 3-5

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Learning Target

The students will:

- Recognize how rhythmic storytelling developed within African American percussive dance and movement traditions.
- Explain what the Stono Rebellion was and why it is historically significant.
- Know what Northrop audience expectations are.
- Reflect on what they see, hear, and feel during the performance.



Introduction to UMN and Northrop

The University of Minnesota has five campuses in the Twin Cities, Crookston, Duluth, Morris, and Rochester.

You will be viewing an incredible dance performance at the beautiful Northrop building, which is located on the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities campus.

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The University of Minnesota

The University of Minnesota welcomes students of all ages!

The Twin Cities campus is the flagship of the system and has much to offer. Watch [this short video](#) to learn about the University.



MN State Standards Addressed in this Lesson

2018 MN K-12 Academic Standards in Physical Education:

4. Exhibit responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others.
5. Recognize the value of physical activity for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interaction.

2021 K-12 Social Studies Anchor Standards:

1. Civic Skills: Apply civic reasoning and demonstrate civic skills for the purpose of informed and engaged lifelong civic participation. Democratic Values and Principles: Explain democratic values and principles that guide governments, societies, and communities and analyze the tensions within the United States constitutional government.
3. Rights and Responsibilities: Explain and evaluate rights, duties, and responsibilities in democratic society.
18. Change, Continuity and Context: Ask historical questions about context, change, and continuity in order to identify and analyze dominant and non-dominant narratives about the past.
24. Resistance: Describe how individuals and communities have fought for freedom and liberation against systemic and coordinated exercises of power locally and globally. Identify strategies or times that have resulted in lasting change. Organize with others to engage in activities that could further the rights and dignity of all.

2020 MN K-12 Anchor Standards in English Language Arts (ELA)

LSVEI 1 (Listening, Speaking, Viewing and Exchanging Ideas): Exchange ideas in discussion and collaboration, as listener, speaker and participant, A) including the voices and perspectives of Dakota and Anishinaabe people as well other perspectives, identities and cultures like and unlike their own, and B) expressing one's own ideas, stories and experiences.



Northrop's Mission Statement

“Rooted in the belief that the arts are essential to the human experience, Northrop is committed to cultivating intersections between performing arts and education for the benefit of all participants now and for generations to come.”

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Northrop Audience Expectations

Students attending performances at Northrop should be aware of audience expectations while there:

1. Become immersed in the show by thoughtfully absorbing what is presented. Notice staging, lights, and costumes.
2. Get involved in the story on stage and react appropriately, and applaud to show appreciation when the show is concluded.
3. Save conversation until after the performance, as it disturbs both the performances and audience.
4. Turn off technology completely.
5. Enjoy the show! Dance is a powerful teacher.



Step Afrika!

On stage you will see a step dance troupe called [Step Afrika!](#) This troupe promotes “an appreciation for stepping and its use as an educational, motivational, and healthy tool for young people.”

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Step Dancing

Stepping, a polyrhythmic type of percussive dance, was created by African American students a century ago who were members of college social organizations called fraternities (for men) and sororities (for women). Stepping was a way to demonstrate pride.

Step dancers use their own body as an instrument. They wear hard soled shoes that create sound. Different groups, however, created their own styles of stepping—such as hitting the floor hard, singing, or using hand movements.

Video: Stepping

Watch [this short video](#) that highlights Step Afrika! and what stepping is.





Drumfolk

- You will see Step Afrika! perform their show called *Drumfolk*, which was inspired by the Stono Rebellion of 1739, an American history event that transformed African American life and culture.
- *Drumfolk*, a noun, is a name that means people who create rhythm with their bodies.

OLI N A in 3 Parts. The Improved part from the Surveys of Maurice
No. Vain. 3 A Chart of the Coast from Virginia to Cape Florida. Published by Edw. Crisp.



The Stono Rebellion of 1749

The area along the banks of the Stono River near Charleston, South Carolina, was the site of the largest slave insurrection in British North America that began on September 9, 1749.

An Angolan slave named Jemmy, along with a group of 20 Africans organized the rebellion in hopes of gaining their freedom. They raided a store, taking weapons, and killed two shopkeepers.

Their goal was to march toward Spanish-controlled St. Augustine, Florida, because Spain had promised them freedom and land in order to cause unrest in the British colonies.



The Stono Rebellion of 1749

Along the way, the group marched to drums and recruited fellow slaves along the way in hopes of gaining freedom.

Additional buildings were plundered and more people died.

Eventually, the rebels reached the Edisto River, more than 20 miles away, where white colonists confronted them and killed most of the rebels.



The Stono Rebellion of 1749

Prior to the rebellion, white colonists had been devising ways to further limit the lives of slaves.

After the Stono uprising, white colonists passed the Negro Act, and from then on slaves were no longer allowed to grow their own food, meet in groups, earn their own money, use drums, write in English, or learn to read.

Video: The Stono Rebellion

[Watch this video](#) to learn more about the Stono Rebellion and its aftermath.



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Reflect on Oppression

Too often, those who are oppressed have very limited means to fight for their rights, but today the U.S. Constitution does allow various legal ways for *all people to do so*.

What are some examples?
Please share.

We the People of the United States
insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article I.

Section. 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of Representatives.

Section. 2. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch in that State. No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty five Years, and seven Years, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union according to their Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct.

There shall be no more than one Representative for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such Time as they shall have attained to that Number, the States formerly entitled to chose three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations one, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and New York six.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority in that State shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies. The House of Representatives shall chuse their Speaker and other Officers; and shall chuse their Members in each State.

Section. 3. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Constitutional Rights

For example, today the [Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution](#) guarantees citizens many rights in Amendment I that were not granted to slaves during the time of the Stono Rebellion.

The Bill of Rights says Congress shall make **no law** respecting:

- an establishment of religion, or prohibit the free exercise thereof,
- or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.



Equal Rights but Unequal Treatment

Despite these guarantees under the U.S. Constitution, many people still do not always get treated equally under the law.

Many oppressed people and groups use art forms to express themselves as they strive for equal rights.

Can you identify examples where you have seen art forms and activism intersect?
Please share.



Where Do Art and Activism Intersect?

Examples: music, videos, books, and films that contain political and social messages, graffiti, and peaceful protests.

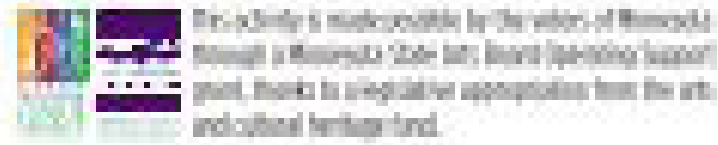


Step Afrika!'s *Drumfolk*

Step Afrika!'s performance of *Drumfolk* will illustrate not only a significant historical act of political revolt, but it will also demonstrate how oppressed people developed an art form in response.

While the drums were taken away, the oppressors could not stop the beat!

Special thanks to the Ordway's Major Partners



Fred C. and
Katherine B.
Andersen
Foundation



Hugh J.
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Enjoy the Show!



What did you hear?

What did you see?

What did you feel?

Post-Performance Reflection

Think deeply about what you heard, saw, and felt during the moving Drumfolk performance.

Reflect in writing first, then share your thoughts with the whole class.



Thank You

Thank you for visiting the University of Minnesota.

We hope you will think about someday coming to the UMN for college!

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