



Read all about the history of dance and then answer the questions!

The History of Dance.

Dance has always been popular and historians believe that dance is a major contributor to early human civilization. Paintings and drawings have been found inside caves that show cavemen and women danced as a ritual, for fun and to celebrate special occasions. The first archaeological evidence of this dates back over 9000 years and was discovered inside a cave in India. It is also believed that dances were taught as a way of passing on stories from one generation to another.

For centuries, dance has also been used during religious ceremonies. The Ancient Greeks would dance to honour their Gods and Ancient Egyptian priests used dance as a way of visually telling stories within their rituals. Ancient Egyptian women were even known to dance at a funeral to express their sadness.

The history of dance within Europe is limited. However, King Louis XIV of France had a passion for ballet which helped to make this dance genre popular with people attending theatres to watch this genre of dance. It is also strongly believed that the Renaissance is when many new dances were invented after which, dance styles were introduced and developed in waves, spurred on by such periods as the Baroque era, post French Revolution, the Elizabethan era, World War 1, Ragtime and pre-WW2.

Did you know that originally, the Waltz was performed by the man and woman standing at arms-length? The way we perform the Waltz today, in a close hold, is due to Queen Victoria who loved to dance and so forced the change.



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What evidence is there to suggest that dancing dates back more than 9000 years?

What do we know about the link between dance and religion?

Key figures from France and England influenced dance. Who were they and how did they influence dance as now know it?

Which style of dance would you like to try? Why not let the Boundless team know and maybe they could upload a tutorial!