

Foot & Fiddle Dance Company



Student Guide

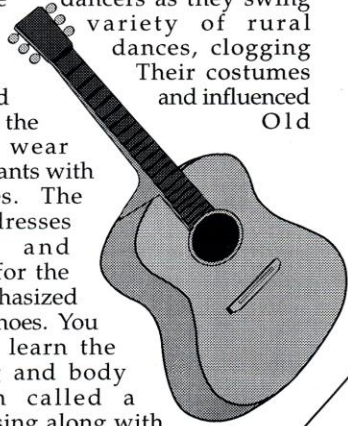


American Footsteps

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ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

The sounds of a country fiddle keep time for the dancers' fancy footwork at the performance of "American Footsteps" by Pat Cannon's Foot & Fiddle Dance Company. These hand-clapping tunes of the southern Appalachian Mountains will accompany the dancers as they swing their partners in a variety of rural American square dances, clogging and tap dancing. Their costumes are brightly colored and influenced by cowboy styles of the Old West. The men wear western shirts and pants with bolo ties or scarves. The women wear full dresses with petticoats and Pettipants. Listen for the strong rhythms emphasized by the taps on their shoes. You will be invited to learn the rhythmic clapping and body slapping pattern called a "hambone," and to sing along with the performers.



THE ROOTS OF COUNTRY MUSIC

Many of the country dances, and much of the music and rhythms have their roots in the music and dance brought to rural America by immigrants from Ireland and Scotland. These were influenced by the rhythms of African and Native American dancing until country music and dance developed a unique style of its own.

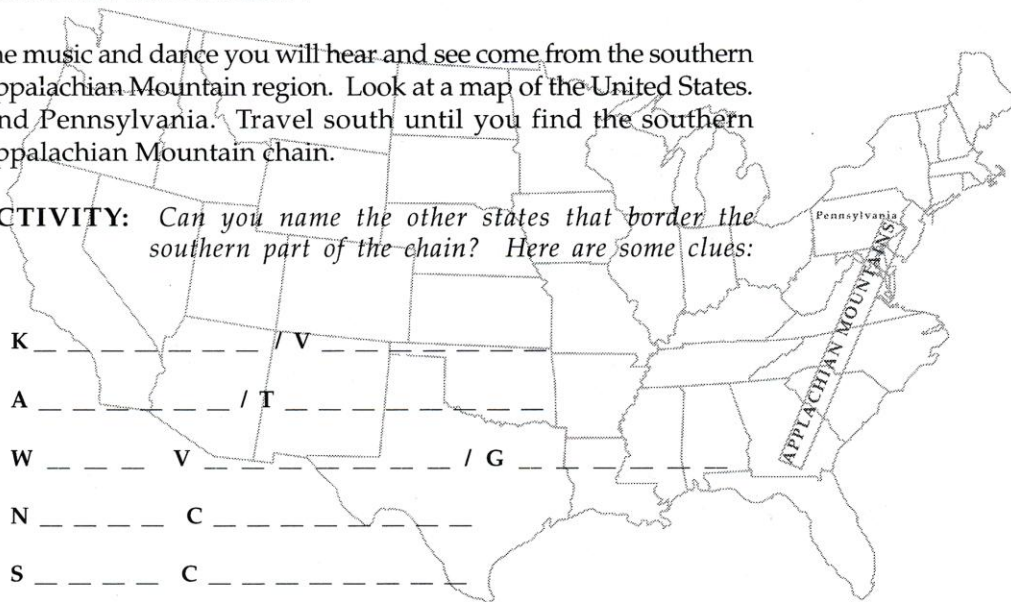
ACTIVITY: Ask your parents and grandparents what kind of dances were popular when they were growing up. Did they bring dances from their own country to America? Did those dances change? Can they teach you one of their dances? What kind of music do you like to dance to? Discuss these with your teacher and classmates.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

The music and dance you will hear and see come from the southern Appalachian Mountain region. Look at a map of the United States. Find Pennsylvania. Travel south until you find the southern Appalachian Mountain chain.

ACTIVITY: Can you name the other states that border the southern part of the chain? Here are some clues:

K _____ / V _____
 A _____ / T _____
 W _____ V _____ / G _____
 N _____ C _____
 S _____ C _____



CALLING A SQUARE DANCE

A square dance caller tells the dancers what steps to do next in rhythm and rhyme. Sometimes even singing the directions to well-known songs. The calls might remind you of rap music. Here are some popular square dance calls that use rhythm and rhyme:

INTRODUCTORY CALL

Swing 'em boys and do it right,
Swing those girls 'til the middle of the night.

FILL-IN-PATTER

Promenadeis what I said,
If she don't like biscuits,
feed her corn bread.

Hand over hand and,
Heel over heel,
The more you dance,
The better you feel.

ENDING CALL

That's all there is,
There ain't no more,
Wave to the caller,
at the door.

Promenade,
You know where,
Take your honey,
To a nice soft chair.

ACTIVITY: Write your own call.
Rhyme the last word of each line.
Make the rhythm a strong 1-2 beat.
To hear the rhythm, clap your hands
on 1 as you say the rhyme aloud:

1 2 1 2 1 2 1

2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1

YOUR CALL:

COUNTRY TALES

Country tales are often very funny, sometimes scary, and sometimes exaggerated. Read some folktales from the Appalachians and listen to tapes or videocassettes of story tellers telling these country tales. Here are some books and tapes that you can find in your library:

Grade K-1:

Molly Bang, *Wiley and the Hairy Man*
(Picture Book)

Folktellers, *Tales to Grow On* (record
or tape)

Jackie Torrence, *Brer Rabbit Stories*
(tape)

Grade 2-5:

Folktellers, *Tales to Grow On* (record
or tape)

NAPPS, *Homespun Tales* (tape)

Jackie Torrence, *Brer Rabbit Stories*,
Tales for Scary Times (tapes)

David Holt, *Tailybone* (tape)

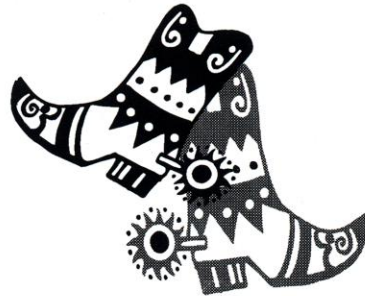
Ann Durell, *The Diane Goode Book
of American Folk Tales and Songs*

Grades 6-8:

Jackie Torrence, *Country
Characters and Jack Tales*
(tapes)

Folktellers, *White Horses
and Whipporwhills*
(records and tapes)

Richard Chase, *The Hack
Tales and Grandfather Tales*,
(books)



“COUNTRY DANCE & MUSIC”

Word Puzzle

Find these words hidden in the puzzle:

A Capella ♦ Appalachians ♦ Banjo
Caller ♦ Clogging ♦ Country ♦ Cut A Rug
Fiddle ♦ Hambone ♦ Hoedown ♦ Music
Square Dance ♦ Tap

H	O	L	B	C	U	T	A	R	U	G	X	S
A	P	P	A	L	A	C	H	I	A	N	S	Y
M	U	W	N	O	M	U	S	I	C	G	O	R
B	A	Z	J	G	U	I	V	B	A	Q	U	T
O	L	L	O	G	M	Q	D	A	P	V	Y	N
N	F	A	N	I	N	W	O	D	E	O	H	U
E	X	P	V	N	F	I	D	D	L	E	F	O
Z	A	P	S	G	O	R	E	L	L	A	C	C
T	L	S	Q	U	A	R	E	D	A	N	C	E

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