

# INUIT DRUM DANCING

## - DANCE -



**CURRICULUM AREA:** The Arts

**TARGET YEAR LEVEL/S:** Years 3 – 7

**CLASS TIME:** 60 minutes

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Native to the Arctic circle, the Inuit have survived there for thousands of years. Part of their traditional culture over those years, has been their traditional drum dancing, used at ceremonies to tell stories. It is still used to today in birthdays and ceremonies. In this lesson, students freely express themselves by telling a story of their own in groups through the medium of drum dancing.

## OUTCOMES

- Identifies and discusses specific features of the arts in other cultures or times and relates this understanding to own arts works and activities;
- Identifies and uses a range of arts languages, skills, simple arts processes and appropriate techniques to make and communicate arts works and to engage in arts activities with others.
- Makes observations about features and elements of own arts works and those of others and uses given frameworks in making responses.

## PREPARATION

- A Large hand drum (or a set of bongo drums)
- Pictures/video of [Inuit drum dancing](#).
- More information on Drum dancing - [http://natedrums.ca/index.php/Music/Drum\\_Dance?tp=a&bg=1&ln=e](http://natedrums.ca/index.php/Music/Drum_Dance?tp=a&bg=1&ln=e)

## STUDENT ACTIVITY

- 1) Students are exposed to videos and pictures of the Inuit drum dancing.
- 2) Discuss with students what Inuit drum dancing about, and it's place in Inuit culture.
- 3) Students divided into groups of four to dance out a story, where one student is designated as the drummer. The drummer must drum to emphasize the mood in parts of the story.
- 4) Students explain their story prior to dancing it.
- 5) After each dance, ask the class to reflect on each performance.

## EXTENSION

- Students can be asked to perform drum dances to PARTICULAR stories, and watch how other groups interpret it in different ways.
- What is different about the way the Inuit drum is played compared to other drums.