

JUNGLE JITTERS

Music	Monique Salomons and Alie van der Hoek
Arrangement	Ruud Lucker
Dance	Maria Speth, Monique Salomons and Alie van der Hoek,
Time	4/4
Prelude	4 bars
Formation	front circle* when sitting on the ground and free use of space
Target Group	suggested 4 to 9 years

Explanation

- This dance may be used in a thematic context; such as a project about animals. The dance itself is a combination of dance, drama and music and can be spread over many lessons. Use of percussion instruments (drums, cups, rhythm sticks, bells, etc.) can provide stimulus when not using the practice music.
- The music in this dance is divided over 5 tracks. This enables the various parts of the dance to be studied separately.

Dance Exploration

- What is a jungle? When working with very young pupils, illustrations and stories are a must to comprehend such an immense concept. A group of pupils was once lost in this jungle. They met back together in a large open space. To keep their courage they sang a song; The Jungle Jingle. While they are singing various animals pass by. They ask each animal for directions. The first three animals give the pupils the wrong directions. Finally, the last animal helps them to find their way home.
- The animals that come in the path of the pupils are fantasy creatures, each with their own specific ways of travelling. These actions are supported by the music. Spend some time exploring each animal and together with the pupils interpret the possibilities of motion. You may also choose to stay closer to home and use familiar animals. Choose animals that are reflected in the music. For example, the zigzag mouse could be replaced by a snake that slithers from side to side while moving forwards.

Suggestions supporting the musical arrangements:

- The **Super Speedy Zigzag Mouse** travels along with pitter-patter feet in a zigzagging pattern from tree to tree. The goal here is to move quickly from space to space without colliding with one another. But, once in a while he suddenly stands still to get his bearings and see where to go next. Then, he is absolutely still, except for his beady little eyes searching for a new path.

* Front Circle: the pupils sit in a circle facing inwards towards the centre.

An interesting variation would be to allow half of the group to spread out in the space and become the trees. The remaining pupils become the mice and move from tree to tree. This is a good exercise for spatial orientation. Switch roles to allow all of the pupils to experience being both a tree and a mouse. When using a percussion instrument, the mice must stop near a tree when the rhythm ceases!

Suggestion: percussion instruments such as rattles, bells

Practice Music #1 or #7

- The **Walking Block Stick Animal** is made out of many parts, so an action like taking a step or lifting an arm, requires several small movements before the action is achieved. This animal moves stiffly like a piece of wood while finding his way on his path. Sometimes he tries to look over the treetops while stretching up high on his toes. Or bends down very low to look through the bushes while trying to find his way. In preparation, you can practice isolated movements** with the pupils. For example, pupils move only one part of their body with every tick on the drum or the claves. Focus upon each and every part of the body that can be moved in isolation (arms, legs, head, fingers, lower arm, feet etc).

Variation: When the mallet hits the side of the drum the pupils choose a different part of the body to move in isolation. Repeat this three times.

The fourth beat is on the skin of the drum and the pupils create a whole new pose with their bodies changing level or direction; standing, sitting, lying down.

Suggestion: percussion instruments such as claves, drums with soft ended mallets or kokoriko.

Practice Music #5

- The **Eight-Legged Knotty Monkey** is extremely agile but is continuously getting his limbs tied in knots whenever he tries to move. Have the pupils practice waving and twisting movements with arms and legs. Begin learning separate movements before combining them. How can you tie yourself in knots? Older pupils might work in pairs to create a Knotty Monkey. How do you move together with a partner while turning, twisting or rolling? These moves are low, close to the ground. The pupils remain in contact with each other as much as possible while travelling.

Suggestion: percussion instruments such as samba balls, cabassa, cups, vibraslap.

Practice Music #8

- The **Gigantic Heavy Hippophant Cow** pulls everyone along with her tail. She pulls and pulls with large heavy steps until everyone is out of the jungle. The pupils, in line (without holding hands), dance with each other using heavy steps. They move forwards or backwards or sideways, rising and sinking, swinging with their bottoms, shoulders etc. The role of the Hippophant Cow can be danced by all of the pupils or by a pre-selected pupil or by the teacher leading them towards the end of the lesson.

Suggestion: percussion instruments such as the drum

Practice Music #6

** Isolated movement: movement of a part of the body while the rest of the body remains stationary. For example, move only the head or arms or shoulders, etc.

Dance Structure

Bars

A	a
1 - 8	The Jungle jingle is sung while sitting in a circle. The first two lines are sung softly with anticipation. Everyone looks all around during the 3rd line, and shows that they are searching for an escape during the 4th line.
interlude	
1 - 2	The call of the first Jungle Animal. The pupils get into position.
B	b1
1 - 8	The Super Speedy Zigzag Mouse travels with pitter-patter feet from tree to tree in zigzag patterns without colliding. Once in a while he stands still to think about where to go next. Then nothing moves... or maybe just their eyes.
interlude	
1 - 4	the pupils sit back in a circle
A	a
1 - 8	repeat a
interlude	
1 - 2	The call of the second Jungle Animal. The pupils get into position.
B	b2
1 - 16	the Walking Block Stick Animal moves in stiff stick like motions searching high above or way down low with its nose almost dragging on the ground
interlude	
1 - 4	the pupils sit back in a circle
A	a
1 - 8	repeat a
interlude	
1 - 2	The call of the third Jungle Animal. The pupils get into position.
B	b3
1 - 16	the Eight-Legged Knotty Monkeys dance either solo or in pairs

interlude

1 - 4 the pupils sit back in a circle

A a
1 - 8 repeat a

interlude

1 - 2 The call of the fourth Jungle Animal. The pupils get into position.

B b4
1 - 24 the Gigantic Heavy Hippophant Cow leads the long line of dancers out of the Jungle
25 fade out

prelude

Jun - gle beas-ties are all a - round, oh

Can you hear them making their sound We are lost but

where to go? Who can we ask and who will know?

Lyrics Jungle Jingle

Jungle beasts are all around.
Can you hear them make their sound?
We are lost but where to go?
Who can we ask and who will know?

