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WORLD OF WONDER

Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

DANCING

People have been dancing since prehistoric times. Early cultures used dance and oral performances to pass stories from one generation to the next. Dance eventually evolved into a complex and beautiful expression of the human condition — we dance when we are happy or sad, to heal or give thanks. We dance to preserve cultural heritage, to demonstrate physical skill, to entertain and just to have fun.

Over time, as flamenco has become popular around the world, it has been mixed with other kinds of music and dance. Flamenco in its truest form is an expression of deep emotion, like terrible sadness or great joy.



Classical Thai dancing is an expression of traditional stories and religious themes.

Thai costumes are embroidered heavily with silk and crystals.

Folk dancing is a traditional form of dance that often celebrates a country or cultures uniqueness.

Daria Klimentová performing in "Swan Lake"

Hands are an expressive part of ballet and are part of the graceful line created by dancers. Ballet costumes are designed to be beautiful yet practical. They are made to be durable, comfortable and pleasing to the eye.



Portuguese folk dancer

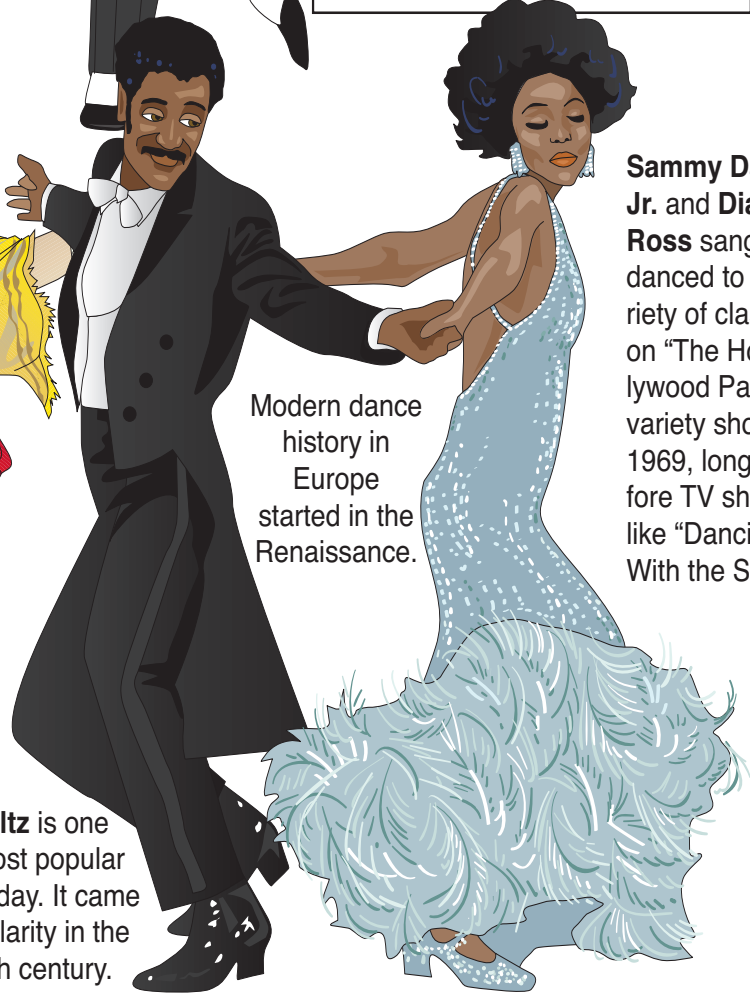


Tunisian pot dancer

The **Tunisian pot dance** is a North African folkloric and theatrical dance that involves several women moving in graceful and fluid unison while balancing water pots on their heads.



Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers were a famous dance duo of the 1930s. Many people think that Rogers was a better dancer than Astaire because she did all the steps he did, but she did them in high heels.



Sammy Davis Jr. and Diana Ross sang and danced to a variety of classics on "The Hollywood Palace" variety show in 1969, long before TV shows like "Dancing With the Stars."

Modern dance history in Europe started in the Renaissance.

The **waltz** is one of the most popular dances today. It came into popularity in the mid-19th century.

Dancing shoes

Dance shoes have been designed and crafted to meet the needs, skill and style of the dancer. Ballet dancers wear soft slippers before they are strong and skilled enough to wear pointe shoes. In Flamenco dancing, special shoes or boots called *zapatos de baile* are used — the toe and wooden heel are fitted with dozens of little nails that produce clicking or brushing sounds (similar to tap-dancing). For many dance shoes, the heel is very important and comes in a variety of heights. Ballroom and Latin dancing shoes usually have a flare for better balance, and the leather is often much softer than in regular street shoes; these shoes usually have a suede sole that provides swivel and grip. Street dancers and hip-hop dancers prefer a heavier and wider rubber-soled sneaker.



SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; <https://dance.lovetoknow.com/>; <http://www.dancefacts.net/>

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