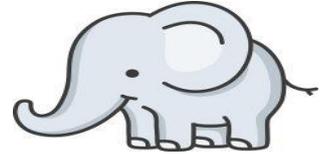


CREATIVE IDEAS FOR DEVELOPING DANCE

Stravinsky wrote this music for a ballet to be performed by 50 elephants and 50 ballerinas!

EYFS: ELEPHANTS

Show pictures of elephants and talk about how they move and use their trunks. Think about their large heavy steps, how they swing their trunk, search for food and their strong shape,



Explain that children are going to become the elephant's trunk. Imagine how they would reach for leaves, stretching high or push something heavy. To curl up their trunk when eating: stretch when searching.

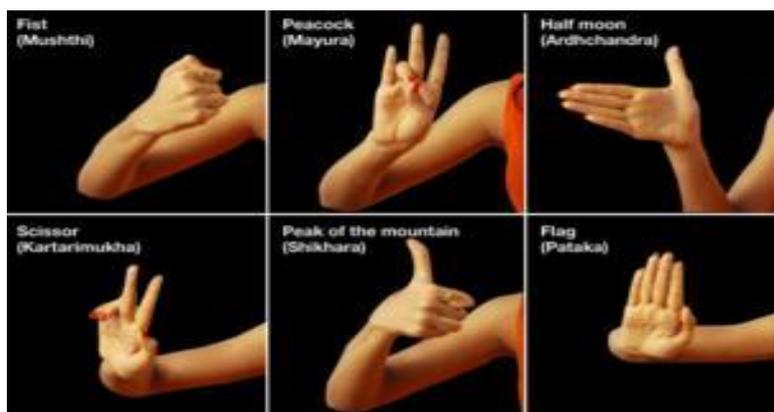
Put the ideas together to make a short dance phrase.

Now try some elephant stomps around the room. Elephants often follow each other in a line, so children could play follow-the-leader. Elephants are very strong, so try making a strong shape with a partner.



KS1: A CULTURAL DANCE FROM INDIA

Ganesha is the Lord of Good Fortune who provides prosperity, fortune and success. Explain that in South Asian dance, the hands tell a story. Try to copy some simple hand gestures.

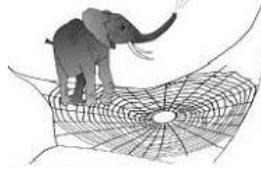


Indian dancers wear bells on their ankles - practise stomps and turns, imagining the bells around ankles.

Have several images of South Asian dancers. Copy some still positions of South Asian dancers.

Put all 3 ideas together to make a dance action phrase.

CREATIVE LINKS TO THE EYFS HOLISTIC CURRICULUM



EXPRESSIVE ART AND DESIGN - MUSIC

Sing the cumulative counting song: *'One elephant, went out to play; upon a spider's web one day...'* and invent actions to match the lyrics. Chalk a giant spider's web in the outdoor area as a performance space for your elephant dancers!

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN - FILM



Watch the whimsical clip of hippos performing their ballet routine to Ponchielli's *'Dance of the Hours'* in Walt Disney's *'Fantasia'*. Sadly, Disney didn't use Balanchine's ideas of 50 elephants but the hippos are utterly enchanting!

CREATIVE LINKS TO THE KS1 CURRICULUM

MUSIC

Enjoy listening to the classic song: *'Nelly, the elephant'*, first performed in 1956 but still very engaging.

LITERACY



Read Kipling's *'Just-So'* story of *'The Elephant's Child'* or *'How the elephant got its trunk'*. Encourage children to re-tell the classic as a series of cartoons with single sentence captions.

ART AND DESIGN/PSHE

Elephants have great significance in Hindu mythology and appear in many art forms. Explore the story of Ganesha, the Hindu god, and look at images of decorated elephants. Make mosaic pictures with small pieces of shiny card and make the elephants really colourful with gold and silver decorations.

