

## History of Dance

This activity accompanies “Angelina,” from *The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar* by Paul Laurence Dunbar, record number 5163.

**Activity Title:** History of Dance

**Description:** The students will explain how African American dancing influenced the history of dance in the United States, by researching information online.

**Subject:** Social Studies, Language Arts, and Arts: Dance

**Skill:** Research Skills and Writing

**Behavioral Objective:**

- The student will explain how African American dancing influenced the history of dance in the United States.

**Materials:**

- “Angelina” poem, available in audio and print form at <http://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>
- Paper and pencil
- Internet access to information about African American dancing available at:  
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/freetodance/timeline/index.html>,  
[http://www.savoystyle.com/spirit\\_moves.html](http://www.savoystyle.com/spirit_moves.html),  
<http://www.theatredance.com/mhist01.html>

**Procedures:**

Read the poem with the students, or have them read it on their own. Discuss with the students the main idea of the poem. Then, have the students work in small groups to research the history of dance in the United States, focusing on events that took place during the Reconstruction period. Next, have the groups write a short paper explaining how the African American culture helped to influence the history of dance. When the students are finished, have them share what they wrote with the class.

