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Greetings. I'm Dr. DeBelle Williams, professional development director for Engage in Creative Minds. And today we have our final session of Dance Matters with Mario Richardson. And today you're going to learn all about tap dance. So stay tuned as we hear from Mario. Hi. My name is Mariel Richardson, and today I'm going to be teaching you a little bit about tap dance.

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Now, tap dance is a dance form that was developed right here in the U.S. and it probably grew about 300 years at this point. But we are going to focus a little bit on how much that growth has inspired tap dancing today. It's a dance style that was modeled through British and West African step dance traditions and began to emerge in the 1700s.

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Before, there were metal plates on the bottom of tap shoes. As we see them today, dancers use hard soled shoes, clogs and hot nailed boots to make the intricate sounds and rhythms with their feet. Tap has a level of technique all of its own. It developed from people listening to each other and watching each other dance in the street, dance halls or social clubs.

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That's where steps were shared, stolen and reinvented. Technique of this form is transmitted visually, aurally and physically. In a rhythmic exchange between dancers and musicians. Mimicking the look and sound of the step is absolutely crucial. Now, two of my personal favorite African-American tap dancers are Gregory Hines and Savion Glover. I felt like these two gentlemen were men that just transcended time in terms of tap, and they were inspirations to me growing up and were two of my favorite dancers to watch and inspired me to tap dance as well.

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One of my favorite Irish tap dancers is Michael Flatley, and he used to perform with an Irish performing group called River Dance and watching his videos as a kid performing on stage also inspired me to become a tap dancer. So let's go ahead and take a look at some tap steps today and see what we can learn.

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All right. So as you can hear, I have metal plates on the bottoms of my shoes. So these are tap shoes the way they are today. Like I said

before, they are not they weren't always like this. They were flat and hard and didn't have metal sounds. But over time, someone thought that it might be a really good idea to amplify those sounds.

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So they went ahead and figured that metal plates on the bottom would help that. And I agree with them because now you're going to be able to hear my sounds a lot more clear than you would if I did not have these on. So we are going to learn a step that has two names. It's either called the parrot little or it's called the paddle and roll.

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Depending on where you are in the country, you might hear it called one over the other. So I figured you might want to know both just in case. So we are going to start with our feet together, just like this. Now, the first movement we're going to do with our right foot, we're going to dig our heel into the ground just like that.

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So think about putting that heel nice and firm into the floor. From here, you're going to pick your toes up as if you're trying to pick up a pen or a pencil off the floor with your toes. So as you hear my toes spank across the ground just like that, as I do that motion with my toes. So we have a dig and a speck gig and a speck.

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Those are our first two movements as part of a period at all. So after that, after I pick my toes up, I'm going to put the ball of my foot down and then I'm going to drop my heel on the floor just like that. So that's four sounds within one movement. So I have my dig, my spank, my drop of the ball of my foot and the drop of my heel.

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I'm going to do the same thing with my left foot. I dig. I pick up. I drop my toes. I drop me here. So let's do that on both feet, alternating sides a couple of times just to get the feel of it. We have our dig, our spank, so and heel gig, spank, toe, heel again. Big spank. So heel, gig, spank.

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So heel. Okay, so that's our period. Little as it is, we're going to do a combination that changes up how we do those titles so that it kind of has a little bit of a fluctuating rhythm and it makes it a little bit more interesting to listen to. So we call this a nickname

that we call it is for 2 to 1.

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You're going to do four patrols and then you're going to do a double, and then you're going to do a single. So that's where the two twos come from and the one that happens at the end. So let me show it to you and then I'll break it down. We go. Okay. So this year I had four singles.

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I did a double on my right. I did a double on my left. And then I did one last single right there at the end. Okay. So let's break that down a little bit and we'll see where we get. So we've got our four singles. We just learned that. So we're going right, left, right, left. We have our dig, our spike, our step, our heel gig, spank, step, heel, big spank, step, heel, last one gig, spank, step, heel from here to make it a double, we're going to dig, pick up, dig, pick up so we can do that first section of our paired little two times.

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Dig, pick up, dig, pick up and then go ahead and do the step heel. Repeat that on the left side. Gig, pick up, gig. Pick up, step, heel. Okay. So single on the right, single on the left, single on the right, single on the left. Double on the right. Double on the left. We've got one more single to go and then we're ready for the left side.

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So now we would repeat that whole sequence, but starting with the left foot instead. So let's give that a try. We have our single pick up, our step, our heel, right foot, dig, pick up, step, heel, drop and left foot and the right foot. Now your double gig, pick up gig, pick up step, heel. Right side gig, pick up gig, pick up, step, heel now.

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Single gig, pick up and a step and a heel. And now, if you wanted to do the right side again, you would be right here, ready for the right side. So let's try that. Let's try that in sequence from the right side into the left side. We're going to start slow just like that. And then we're going to pick up our speed and see how fast we can get.

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Okay, so we've got right foot ready to go with four singles. Ready? Five, six. Here we go. A big pick up and step and heel. Other side gig. Pick up, step, heel, repeat, pick. Pick up, step. Heel drop. Last

one. Picked up. Now our doubles on the right. We have a big pick up and big pick up and a step and a heel left side double Q and a step heel now single to switch side left side four times pick up and a step and a heel.

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A right foot pick up and a step and heel. Third time and fourth time now double with the left with the dig and brush gig. Rush step. Heel. Right foot. Double second time and a step heel. Nothing will take a breath and step heel. And now your right foot would be ready. So that if you wanted to continue, you could do it again, starting on the right side.

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Okay. Hope that's going okay for you. Let's try it a little bit faster now. Our tempo is going to pick up just to this point right here. This is going to be our rhythm. So it's not too much faster. It's just a little bit faster here. How my doubles dig that my right single than my left. Okay, so that's our tempo.

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Ready? Five, six. Right. But here we go. We do a dig. Mm. Let's actually go. Let's take it just a little bit slower right here. I think this is a good spot. Ready? And a five and six and five. Six. Here we go. And dig. Spank and spank and spank. Good. Four doubles on the right and the left and single left side we go.

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Four singles in a row. Now your doubles on the left foot and the right. And a single four, two, two, one. So now let's take it a little bit faster than that. Hopefully that one. Okay, here we go. We've got our rhythm. Five and a six and a five. Six. Here we go. With a dig, a D and a three and a four doubles right foot, left foot.

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And your single left side goes for two, three, four and your double and your double and you're single. Nice. Now, if you want a little bit faster of a challenge, you can do it with me next. So my tempo next is going to be this.

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You feeling like challenging yourself? Do that with me. Ready? Here we go. Here's our tempo. Five and six and five. Six. Ready? Here we go. And for double, double singles for and right side for and left.

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Good. So let's try that one last time. This time we're going to end it with a stamp. Okay, so if you've got that fast tempo down, do it with me one more time. Right, left, right, left. We're going to stamp on that last one. So when we do our double on the left, double on the right are single, we're going to stamp it out.

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Okay, so here we go. Five and six, five, six. Ready? Here we go. And dig double, double. Single for double, double, single for double, double, single or double, double step. Yes. So nice. Strong sound right there at the end. So we had our double our other double stamp, nice and strong. So it kind of ends almost like a period to the end of a sentence.

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Yes. Gives a nice strong finish. Okay. So again, the nickname for that, we call it where I'm from, where I grew up. We call it four, two, two, one. But it is apparent that all combination also known as paddle and roll. If you're interested in learning more about tap, feel free to go look up videos on YouTube. There are tons of tap tap dancers out there that are willing to share their skills with you and help you learn a little bit more.

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So I hope you had fun learning about the all today and I hope you have a great rest of your day. Bye. Wow. What an amazing lesson. Learning about tap dance and a history of tap dance right here in South Carolina. We want to thank our very own engaging, creative mind. Teaching artist Mario Richardson for coming into the studios and sharing with us today.

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Thank you so much. And we hope that you enjoyed this series Dance Matters. And until next time. Have a wonderful day.