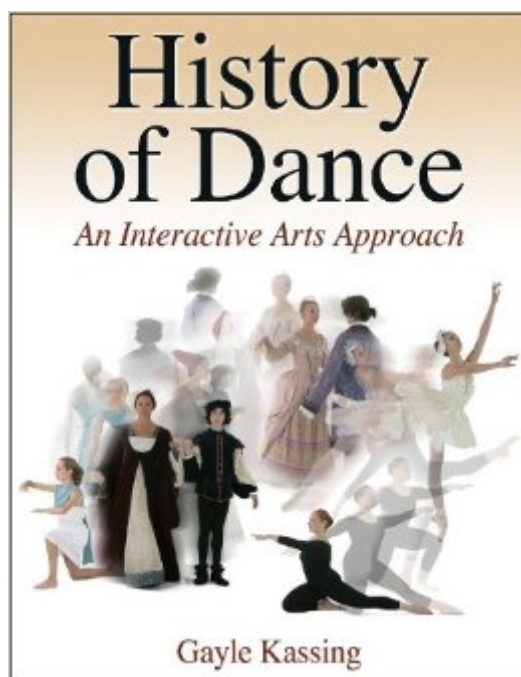


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# History Of Dance: An Interactive Arts Approach



## Synopsis

History of Dance: An Interactive Arts Approach provides an in-depth look at dance from the dawn of time through the 20th century. Using an investigative approach, this book presents the who, what, when, where, why, and how of dance history in relation to other arts and to historical, political, and social events. In so doing, this text provides a number of ways to create, perceive, and respond to the history of dance through integrated arts and technology. This study of dancers, dances, and dance works within an interactive arts, culture, and technology environment is supported by the National Standards in dance, arts education, social studies, and technology education.

History of Dance: An Interactive Arts Approach has four parts. Part I explains the tools used to capture dance from the past. Part II begins a chronological study of dance, beginning with its origins and moving through ancient civilizations and the Middle Ages through the Renaissance. Part III covers dance from the 17th to the 20th century, including dance at court, dance from court to theater, romantic to classical ballet, and dance in the United States. Part IV focuses on 20th-century American dance, highlighting influences on American ballet and modern dance as it emerged, matured, and evolved during that century.

History of Dance: An Interactive Arts Approach includes the following features:

- Chapter outlines that present topics covered in each chapter
- Opening scenarios to set the scene and introduce each time period
- Explorations of dancers, choreographers, and other personalities
- Explorations of the dances and significant choreography and dance literature of each time period
- History Highlight boxes containing unusual facts, events, and details to bring history to life
- History Trivia, providing insights into how dance relates to the history, art, and society of the time period
- Web sites to encourage further exploration
- Developing a Deeper Perspective sections that encourage students to use visual or aesthetic scanning, learn and perform period dances, observe and write performance reports, develop research projects and WebQuests (Internet-based research projects), and participate in other learning activities
- Vocabulary terms at the end of each chapter

Each chapter in parts II through IV provides an overview of the time period, including a time capsule and a historical and societal overview. Each chapter focuses on major dancers, choreographers, and personalities; dances of the period, including dance forms, dance designs, accompaniment, costuming, and performing spaces; and significant dance works and dance literature. The chapters also feature a series of eight experiential learning activities that help students dig deeper into the history of dance, dancers, and significant dance works and literature. These activities are presented as reproducible templates that include perceiving, creating, performing, writing, and presenting oral activities infused with technology. Teachers can use these activities as optional chapter assignments or as extended projects to help apply the information and

to use technology and other integrated arts sources to make the history of dance more meaningful. History of Dance is an indispensable text for dance students who want to learn the history of dance and its relationship to other arts of the times using today's interactive technology.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Writer Wellness: A Writer's Path to Health and Creativity Author and former college dance instructor, Gayle Kassing, has provided an exceptional book with History of Dance: An Interactive Arts Approach. I use this book in the university history of dance courses I teach and it presents a picture of the development of dance from pre-historic times to 20th century America in a concise and readable format. Students have no trouble grasping concepts and following the material because it is organized in a manner that makes sense. Kassing underscores each section with a history timeline and information about politics, society, etc. to encourage readers to view the history of dance as an important and natural outgrowth of human history from the beginning of time. My students never fail to have "aha" moments and to make connections about dance and life that helps them retain more information. The book is packed with information and includes several well considered appendixes that help students with research projects. Every chapter includes numerous dance and history websites where students can go for additional information, and the websites are generally intact (haven't disappeared in other words.) Kassing has "nailed the turn" with her book and I look forward to future work from her. Anybody interested in dance history, any library, homeschooling student looking for an interesting course, or teacher should give this book a close

inspection. For schools that adopt the text, the publisher provides a wealth of printable teaching resources online for free!

The book's description sounds wonderful for any dance history class. However, it is so superficial in coverage of the time periods that it covers - spits out single sentence descriptions of various things that happened during a decade without any effort to connecting the events to what was going on in dance. It definitely leaves a lot up to the instructor of the course to help students make those important connections. I also found the organization awkward.

I am currently piloting a dance history class with 7th graders in our middle school magnet program. I chose this text after reading reviews and checking out the previews online, and it did not disappoint! It is well organized, easy to use, and has great information. I particularly love all the internet connections. Although the students do not have a copy of the text (we do not have the funding for textbooks at this time) I have been able to use this text as a guideline for my instruction and lectures. I have also used the websites and other suggestions provided in the book. My only "complaint" is that in looking ahead, it really only includes ballet and modern in the sections of 20th century dance. I will most likely seek out an additional text that covers jazz/musical theater/tap when we get to the 20th century. I just hope I can find a text that is as thorough and interactive as this one!

This book is amazing to have Gayle really opens up the history of dance for beginners to the subject and gives more for those who are well versed. All around a great book for class or general reading!

I ordered this for a class for college and it was okay. Has the most of the names that were a part of dance, plays, and who made them, up to 2006-7. Not good for the history on other forms of dance. Nice layout for quick studying. If you looking for a book on ballet and how it got started, then this book is for you.

Well planned, easy to follow, excellent reference book with lots of background information as well.. We found this book a valuable resource for our research.

Purchased as a textbook for a dance history class. A thorough guide to all dance from its earliest recorded times.

This book was very easy to rent and it looks new! I will be a returning customer for a while!

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