**Author:** Ruth Perez  
  
**Lesson Title:** West African Dance  
  
**Suggested Grade Level:** 10

**Estimated Lesson Time:** 60 minutes

**Student Prior Knowledge:**

Students know the techniques and skills used in West African dance as well as the significance of the dance style to the West African culture. Students also know the history behind West African dance including when, how and why it originated. Lastly, students have already prepared a 30 second West African routine.

**Standards:**

DA.912.S.3

Through purposeful practice, artists learn to manage, master, and refine simple, then complex, skills and techniques.

**Goals:**

Students will compare and contrast West African dance to another dance style we have learned this school year, in order to understand culture, history, and the emotional values that dance can bring to them and the people around them. Students will apply their knowledge of West African dance by choreographing and performing a 30 second routine. Choreographing and performing different styles of dance will help students develop their dance skills and techniques.

**Learning Objective:**

Students will create an artistic routine that conveys the historical meaning and culture behind West African dance. They will also compare and contrast the West African dance to another dance style they have learned this school year by collaborating with group members and presenting those similarities and differences to the class.

**Resources:** Students were previously given these websites to learn about the history of West African dance, and the video helped them perfect their West African dance style and technique.

<http://www.worldartswest.org/plm/guide/printablepages/malisenegal.pdf>

<http://www.ehow.com/video_2388741_learning-technique-african-dance.html>  
  
**Procedures:**  
  
1. Students will get into the groups they selected at the beginning of the schools year. There are five groups in total. (5 min)

2. Each group briefly presents/explains the differences and similarities between West African dance compared to any other dance style we have learned this school year while other groups take notes of each presentation on a googledoc for future reference. (25 min)

3. Students have already prepared 30 second West African routines and take this time to perfect it with their group members. (15 min)

4. Each group will perform their routine to the class and I will provide them with constructive criticism after their performance. Each routine will be recorded and posted on our YouTube channel for future reference. (15 min)  
  
  
**Assessment:**

Students’ performance must incorporate the skills, techniques, outfit, music choice, and attitude of West African dance. Throughout this activity, students will showcase the knowledge they have on the history, culture, and technique of West African dance. Students will also comprehend why each dance style is danced the way it is and they will convey that through their performance. Within their performances, students can apply the particular dance style to their own lives and emotions and convey them within their dancing. Lastly, after each lesson, students will collaborate with group members and present to the class the difference and similarities between West African dance compared to any other dance style we have learned this school year.