

Expressive art forms

1 Reading

What do you know about these three types of expressive art?

square dance dreamtime haiku

Match the words below to the three forms of expressive art.

Australia steps poetry folk music Japan stories

Now read the text and check your ideas.

Traditional Art Forms

Square dance

- 1 Square dance is a traditional type of folk dance found in many parts of the U.S. The dance dates from 17th-century Europe, and is similar to Scottish country dancing. The name refers to the way the eight dancers (four men, and four women) stand in the shape of a square to begin and end each dance. They are accompanied by folk music.
- 5 The dance movements are based on the steps from traditional folk dances that U.S. immigrants brought with them from Europe. Today, 19 U.S. states have square dance as their official state dance.

Dreamtime

- Dreamtime is a very important concept for the Aborigine people of Australia. It is the way the Aborigine explain the creation of life and their origins. The dreaming connects Aborigine people to their ancestors and to the land. For them, their land, plants, and animals are incredibly important. The dreaming can be shown through paintings, dance, and storytelling. The paintings often consist of lines, circles, and specific symbols that represent animals and people.
- The stories are usually about creation, but are more than just myths and legends. It is through the stories that Aborigine children learn about traditions, how to behave, and where to find
- 15 food and water. Many of these stories have been handed down from generation to generation for thousands of years.

Haiku

- A haiku is a particular type of Japanese poem. Many experts say that the first haiku was written by Basho in the seventeenth century, but it may well date from earlier.
- A haiku consists of three lines adding up to a total of seventeen syllables (or sounds). The first
- 20 and third lines have five syllables each, and the second line seven. One thing that is very different from many forms of poems is that the lines of a haiku do not need to rhyme.
- Traditionally, haiku are about nature and include a *kigo* – a word associated with one of the four seasons.



2 Comprehension

Read the text again. Which text do these sentences refer to?
Write *S* for *Square dance*, *D* for *Dreamtime*, and *H* for *Haiku*.

- 1 This expressive art is the oldest of the three.
- 2 This art form originated in Europe.
- 3 This is connected to a fixed pattern.
- 4 This is not just one form of art.
- 5 Winter, spring, summer and autumn are important in this art form.
- 6 This art form also includes music.
- 7 People use this art form to teach their children.
- 8 A *kigo* is an important part of this.
- 9 This is popular in many U.S. states.

3 Vocabulary

Find these words in the text and choose the correct meaning, a or b, for each one.

- 1 movements
 - a shapes made when moving your body
 - b songs and music
- 2 official
 - a favorite
 - b approved by authority
- 3 ancestors
 - a possessions
 - b someone who is related to you and lived a long time ago
- 4 myths
 - a ancient traditional stories
 - b a logical explanation for something
- 5 generation
 - a a story, song or film
 - b a group of people who are born and live at around the same time
- 6 expert
 - a someone who enjoys doing something for the first time
 - b someone who knows a lot about a topic
- 7 rhyme
 - a two words that have the same sound
 - b something that makes sense

4 Speaking

Work in groups and discuss these questions.

- 1 Which of the expressive art forms in the texts do you find the most interesting?
- 2 Is there a particular art form that is special for your country or region? Can you describe it?

5 Writing

Either

Write a brief description of a particular art form that is special for your country or region.

Or

Find out more about one of the expressive art forms in this lesson and write a short article for a school magazine.