

# Pirate Jig

## Movement Objectives

### Actions

Pirate gestures



### Dynamics

Strong movements  
Mean faces

### Time

Beats of 8

## Warm up ↑

Take on the role of a Pirate Captain – the class are the ship's crew who must obey the following orders...

- **Port.** March to the left side of the room
- **Starboard.** March to the right side of the room
- **Bow.** March to the front of the room
- **Stern.** March to the back of the room
- **Jolly Roger.** Make a crossbones shape with the arms
- **Scrub the deck.** Crouch down on the floor and 'scrub'
- **Climb the rigging.** On the spot – use the arms and feet to 'climb' a rope ladder
- **Walk the plank.** Walk forwards in a narrow line and jump off at the end
- **Crow's nest.** Look out of a 'telescope' (use both hands in front of one eye)

Create a few stretches for the children to demonstrate such as...

- **Up on deck** – stand up straight and stretch up to the ceiling with the arms
- **Peg leg Jim** – stand with one leg bent, pulling the heel towards the bottom (in a thigh stretch). Repeat on the other leg
- **Man the lifeboats** – make a boat shape by holding the arms out in front of the body and holding the hands (in a back stretch)

# Pirate Jig

He's a Pirate - Klaus Badelt



What do pirates wear? Get 'dressed' using the children's suggestions – hook, eye patch, parrot, peg leg, waistcoat, stripy tops and tights, earrings, hats (tricorns) and so on.

Teach the children a dance using gestures that a pirate might do (looking through telescopes, swaying, looking for treasure). For example

**Starting position.** Stand at the sides of the room in a Pirate still image

Each bullet point represents 8 beats of music

- March in to a space
- March on the spot facing the front
- Make the shape of a telescope with the hands and look through it in 4 different directions
- Bring up the right arm in a diagonal position in front of the face and then the left (making the cross bones shape of the pirate flag). Pull the arms down to the sides, lunge forward and shout 'argh!'
- Repeat the telescope actions
- Repeat the crossbones and argh actions
- Sway from side to side 4 times, starting on the right side. At the same time, swing the arms out to the sides and then cross them over in front of the body.
- Step and turn to the right, then lean to the right and bring the right hand to the forehead (in a looking gesture)
- Repeat the sway, but going to the left
- Step and turn to the left, then stand looking proud and brave with hands on hips

Teach the dance in sections, so the children gradually build up their movement memory. Discuss the timings of each movement – can they hear the beat of the music? Can they move to the beat?

Call out different actions from the dance (eg. the telescope bit) – who can remember the movements?

Split the group into 2 and have half the group perform the Pirate Dance to the other group. Swap over. Who did the audience think looked like a pirate, with strong movements and mean faces?

Keep the class split into two groups and label one group 'Peg Leg Jim'; the other 'Me Hearties'. Have one group dance on the right half of the space and the other group dance on the left half. Could one group perform the Pirate Jig first?

## Choreography

Get the children into pairs. Play the music and ask the children to move like a Pirate around the room (eg, hobbling with peg leg, using a sword, loading and firing cannons). Ask each pair to use these to create a Pirate duet...

- Each pair chooses their favourite 3 Pirate actions
- Put the actions into an order and practice them
- Work on the qualities of the movements – make sure they are strong
- Remember the mean facial expressions in their movements

## Performance Opportunity

Create a Pirate dance based on the above ideas. For example

- Beginning. Perform the Pirate Jig in two groups (Peg Leg Jim and Me Hearties)
- Middle. Perform the Pirate duets – either one at a time or in smaller groups
- Ending. March into the middle of the room in a cluster and face the back. On the count of three they all jump around to face the front and shout 'argh'.

## Appreciation

Discuss the dance afterwards – which were their favourite bits? Whose Pirate duets worked really well? Which children looked like fearsome pirates?

# Cool Down ↓

'Take off' the pirate's clothing from the start of the session.

Repeat the stretches from the warm up

- **Up on deck** – stand up straight and stretch up to the ceiling with the arms
- **Peg leg Jim** – stand with one leg bent, pulling the heel towards the bottom (in a thigh stretch). Repeat on the other leg
- **Man the lifeboats** – make a boat shape by holding the arms out in front of the body and holding the hands (in a back stretch)

Little by Little - Groove Armada

