

Study Guide for Teachers

Quynn Johnson

Tap LIVE!

Presented by

**Young Audiences
Arts for Learning**

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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The *Tap LIVE!* assembly is an interactive and rhythmic performance that shares Quynn Johnson's unique personal journey of perseverance and determination to overcome challenges through tap dance. *Tap Live!* combines the four elements of tap dance with music and storytelling to inspire and impact students.

LEARNING GOALS

Students will explore making rhythmic patterns with their hands, learning basic tap steps, and improvising their own movement on stage.

Students will learn and explore four elements of tap dance. Beat, rhythm, improvisation, and choreography.

Students will learn ways to express themselves creatively using tap dance.

Students will explore ways to use movement as self-expression.

Students will learn how the performing arts can be used as a positive outlet to build self-confidence.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Tap dance is an American art form created by African Americans use of polyrhythms. Dancers create rhythms and music using the heels and toes of their feet. Originally enslaved Africans would use drum and dance to express and communicate with each other, however, when drumming was outlawed, the enslaved people translated those rhythms to their feet and their bodies creating a percussive sound and movement.

In the 1900s, tap dancers danced in hard sole shoes with bottle caps, cans or wood on the bottom. Today performers use hard sole shoes with metal on the bottom. Although tap dance began in America it is now a global art form with dancers, concerts, classes and tap festivals hosted all over the globe.

BEFORE THE PROGRAM

Please have students view the video link and complete the chart below.

Video Clip: The Nicholas Brothers (Tap Dancer Legends)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_8yGGtVKrD8

Pre-performance Chart

<u>I See</u> Just describe it!	<u>I Think</u> What does it make you think about?	<u>I Wonder</u> What questions do you have now?

VOCABULARY WORDS

Stomp	Beat
Heel stomp	Rhythm
Toe-toe stomp	Improvisation
Shuffle stomp	Choreography
Slide stomp	

ARTIST INFORMATION

QuynnJohnson has performed tap dance on national and international stages including: The Kennedy Center, Jacobs Pillow, Dance Encore Festival in Quebec, Canada and the International Festival de Cajon in Lima, Peru. She also completed a tour of the Broadway Production *After Midnight*. Quynn is the co-director of SOLE Defined, a percussive dance company based in Washington, DC. Having received the 2014 & 2017 Individual Artist Award: Dance Choreography from Maryland State Arts Council, Ms. Johnson has self-published 2 children's books, *Lucky's Tap Dancing Feet* and *Lucky Goes to Camp*.

AFTER THE PROGRAM

List three things you learned about tap that you could teach someone at home tonight.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Post-Performance Review Questions

1. Where was tap created?
2. Name one element of tap dance?
3. What is your favorite tap step?

RESOURCES

- *Lucky's Tap Dancing Feet*, by Quynn Johnson
- *Brothers of the Night* by Debbie Allen
- *Tap Dancing America: A Cultural History*, by Constance Valis Hill
- *Brotherhood in Rhythm*, by Constance Valis Hill
- *The Souls of Your Feet*, by Acia Gray

Links

Tap Heat Movie- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AeDNy6Ff7VE&t=1s>

Tap Dance in America- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7aizPSgYeU&t=39s>