

ADP ALBERTA BAIR

THEATER

EDUCATION GUIDE

Soul Street Dance



Friday, January 20
9:30am and 12:30pm

Recommended for Grades 1-12
Tickets: \$6.00 per person

ABT Student Matinee series sponsored by

SAM & JUDY MCDONALD

Alberta Bair Theater for the Performing Arts
2801 Third Avenue North • Billings, Montana 59101
406-294-5206 or 406-256-8915
www.albertabairtheater.org

“Motivating our youth through Hip-Hop, Step by step, mind body and soul.”

- Soul Street



ABOUT

Houston based Soul Street Dance is one of the most dynamic premier dance companies in existence. Their technical and artistic skills, stage presence and wit allow them to push the performance envelope to an amazing standard of excellence.

Although they are called a "Dance Company", their talents far outstrip any one category. In addition to dance, Soul Street performers are actors, athletes, (with uncanny strength), and lately, songwriters and musicians.

Soul Street's high standard and attention to detail coupled with impeccable business practices earned them the honor of representing The United States Of America abroad under the auspices of the Arts Envoys touring program from the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

They have recently completed two tours of the European Eastern Bloc, sharing the joy of dance through workshops and performances with young aspiring dancers from the former Soviet Union countries.

They are currently in preparation to represent the U.S. further in an upcoming tour of Haiti.

In all travels they garner goodwill for our country and Houston, Texas by modeling sober, responsible behavior along with open hearts and minds and clean fun that allow them to seamlessly share experience with all cultures.

Soul Street has the amazing ability to totally engage audiences from ages two to two hundred.

A huge repertoire and outstanding flexibility have earned them the title, "Rock Stars of the Educational Theatre World" and they're working hard to expand these accolades worldwide! From educational shows, workshops, full-fledged evening performances or any combination of the aforementioned, Soul Street can bring it to you with an excellence that will leave you speaking of nothing else for days!

Soul Street's consistent excellence in dance and factual attention to subject matter has made them one of the top educational outreach groups in this country.

With repertoire ranging from the music of Vivaldi and, to Rock n Roll to Hip-Hop and every stop in between, Soul Street brings the arts to your facility, huge or intimate, and straight into your heart.

They would love to demonstrate this to your audiences in person.

Ever appreciative of their innate talents, they respect their audiences and themselves by continual practice and innovation. (Never a slack moment. Or a dull one either!)

Have a show tailored to your specific needs or just enjoy what they already have at hand.

See for yourself at the NBA All-Star Games or some of the most prestigious theatre venues in Europe.

Soul Street has the goods and always lavishly shares them!

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

NO BONES ABOUT IT

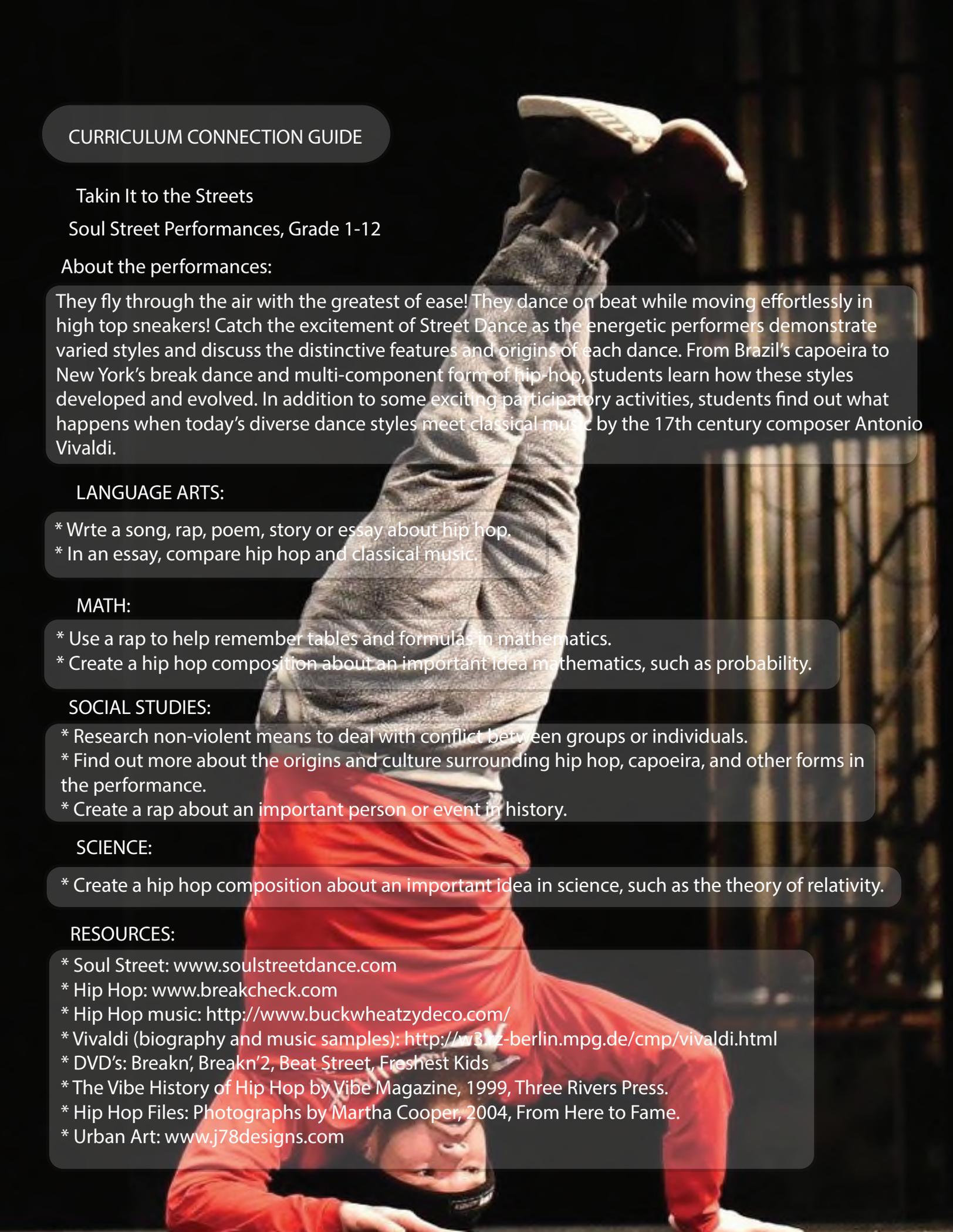
TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

Catch the excitement of Street Dance, as these energetic performers demonstrate its varied styles discussing the distinctive features and origins of each.

This inspirational group of young men--formerly considered at risk--found focus through dance and now are working as professional dancers. They take students on high-flying participating trip from Brazil's copoeira to New York's break dance through the multi-component form of hip hop. See what happens when today's dance meets the music of 17th century composer Antonio Vivaldi.

These impressive dancers exhibit how the human body accomplishes seemingly super-human leaps and bounds through a network of bones, joints, muscles and the brain. Demonstrating with props and high-energy dance segments, the dancers reveal how signals from the brain tell muscle to stretch or contract allowing our bodies to move the way we want them to.





CURRICULUM CONNECTION GUIDE

Takin It to the Streets

Soul Street Performances, Grade 1-12

About the performances:

They fly through the air with the greatest of ease! They dance on beat while moving effortlessly in high top sneakers! Catch the excitement of Street Dance as the energetic performers demonstrate varied styles and discuss the distinctive features and origins of each dance. From Brazil's capoeira to New York's break dance and multi-component form of hip-hop, students learn how these styles developed and evolved. In addition to some exciting participatory activities, students find out what happens when today's diverse dance styles meet classical music by the 17th century composer Antonio Vivaldi.

LANGUAGE ARTS:

- * Write a song, rap, poem, story or essay about hip hop.
- * In an essay, compare hip hop and classical music.

MATH:

- * Use a rap to help remember tables and formulas in mathematics.
- * Create a hip hop composition about an important idea mathematics, such as probability.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

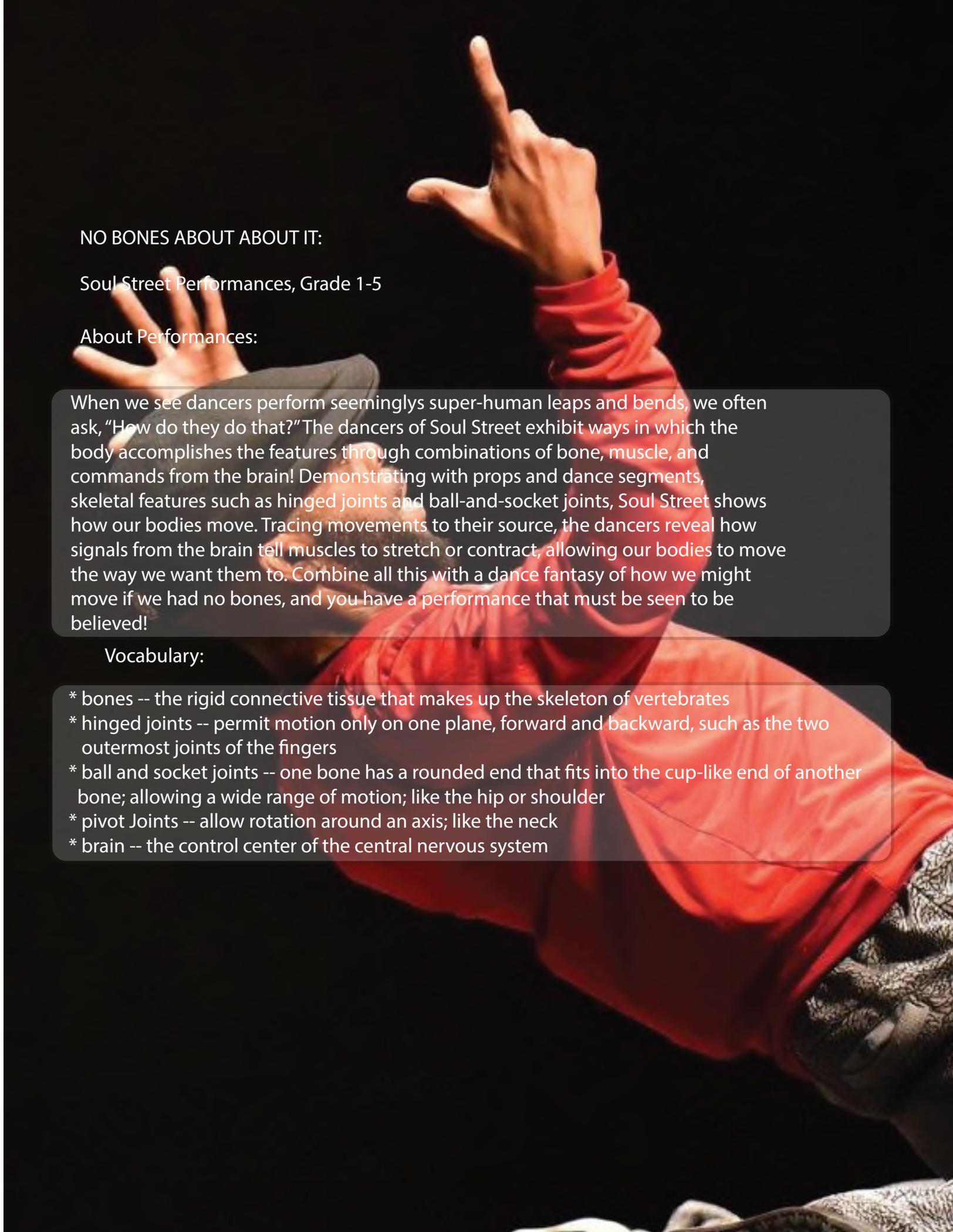
- * Research non-violent means to deal with conflict between groups or individuals.
- * Find out more about the origins and culture surrounding hip hop, capoeira, and other forms in the performance.
- * Create a rap about an important person or event in history.

SCIENCE:

- * Create a hip hop composition about an important idea in science, such as the theory of relativity.

RESOURCES:

- * Soul Street: www.soulstreetdance.com
- * Hip Hop: www.breakcheck.com
- * Hip Hop music: <http://www.buckwheatzydeco.com/>
- * Vivaldi (biography and music samples): <http://w3.rz-berlin.mpg.de/cmp/vivaldi.html>
- * DVD's: Breakn', Breakn'2, Beat Street, Freshest Kids
- * The Vibe History of Hip Hop by Vibe Magazine, 1999, Three Rivers Press.
- * Hip Hop Files: Photographs by Martha Cooper, 2004, From Here to Fame.
- * Urban Art: www.j78designs.com



NO BONES ABOUT ABOUT IT:

Soul Street Performances, Grade 1-5

About Performances:

When we see dancers perform seemingly super-human leaps and bends, we often ask, "How do they do that?" The dancers of Soul Street exhibit ways in which the body accomplishes the feat through combinations of bone, muscle, and commands from the brain! Demonstrating with props and dance segments, skeletal features such as hinged joints and ball-and-socket joints, Soul Street shows how our bodies move. Tracing movements to their source, the dancers reveal how signals from the brain tell muscles to stretch or contract, allowing our bodies to move the way we want them to. Combine all this with a dance fantasy of how we might move if we had no bones, and you have a performance that must be seen to be believed!

Vocabulary:

- * bones -- the rigid connective tissue that makes up the skeleton of vertebrates
- * hinged joints -- permit motion only on one plane, forward and backward, such as the two outermost joints of the fingers
- * ball and socket joints -- one bone has a rounded end that fits into the cup-like end of another bone; allowing a wide range of motion; like the hip or shoulder
- * pivot joints -- allow rotation around an axis; like the neck
- * brain -- the control center of the central nervous system



CURRICULUM CONNECTION GUIDE

MATH:

- * Compare the number of bones in the hand and foot to those in the rest of the body.
- * Create a hip hop composition about an important idea in mathematics, such as probability.

Social Studies:

- * Find out more about the origins and culture surrounding hip hop, capoeira, and other forms in the performance.
- * Discover how to maintain healthy bones.

SCIENCE:

- * Create a hip hop composition about an important idea in science, such as a treaty or interdependence.
- * Learn more about the skeletal system and how the muscles are connected to the bones.

RESOURCES:

- * Soul Street: www.soulstreetdance.com
- * Hip Hop: www.breakcheck.com and www.tribalgear.com
- * Music: <http://www.buckwheatzydeco.com/>
- * DVD's: Breakn', Breakn'2, Beat Street, Freshest Kids
- * The Vibe History of Hip Hop by Vibe Magazine, 1999, Three Rivers Press.
- * Hip Hop Files: Photographs by Martha Cooper, 2004, From Here to Fame.

A DJ is shown in profile, wearing a black beanie and glasses, performing at a night event. The scene is lit with vibrant green and red lights. The DJ is positioned behind a DJ booth with various equipment visible. The background shows a crowd of people and a bright light source, possibly a stage light.

THE HISTORICAL ELEMENTS OF HIP-HOP

BREAKIN':

Breakin', (break dancing) or what was originally known as b-boying and b-girling was the second recognizable elements of Hip Hop to come into existence. Once it became a fad battling was established. Dancers would go to Harlem World on The street to battle. When the term "Battling" came out it was different way to say competition. People went to these and watched and cheered on. Break dancing was simpler then, they had less moves. It modified over time like everything else in history and evolution.

DJ-ing:

DJ-ing (Turntablism) came about in the late 1970's and early 1980's. A DJ in the Bronx named Kool Herc noticed that dancers like the breaks in the music, or the percussion solos. He began experimenting with making the breaks in music longer, which allowed the dancers more time to create new moves.

MC-ing:

MC-ing began as a variation on the toasting found in reggae and dub music, mixed with influences from radio DJs and playing the dozens. Also of influence were the works of The Last Poets and Gil Scott Heron and Bob Dylan's Subterranean Homesick Blues (1965). The original MC's (from Master of Ceremonies") would improvise rhymes over beats created by the DJs. Early raps were frequently merely a sequence of boasts, or attempts to upstage the others MCs.

GRAFFITTI:

Graffiti was the first recognizable element of hip-hop culture to exist. It was used primarily by political activists to make statements to mark territory. It wasn't till the late 1960's that the writing's current identity started to form. Writing started moving from the streets to the subways and quickly became competitive. At this point writing consisted of mostly tags and the goal was to have as many as possible. In short, graffiti in the form of spray can art is art like any other work that might be in a gallery or a museum.