

- Name the dance/dances performed in your area?
- Can you name some of the folk dances of Rajasthan?

### Let us learn about the folk dances of Rajasthan.

The folk dances of Rajasthan are inviting and engaging. They are bound to induce you to tap a foot or two along with the dancers. Rajasthani dances are essentially folk dances. Their origin is in rural customs and traditions. These traditional dances of Rajasthan are absolutely colourful and lively. They have their own significance and style. They are attractive and skilful. They are enjoyed by every age group. Some popular folk dance forms of Rajasthan are given here.

### Ghoomar Dance

This is the most popular folk dance form of Rajasthan. This is basically a community dance for women. They perform it during auspicious events and occasions. The name 'Ghoomar' is derived from the word 'Ghoomna' which means 'gracefully gyrating'.

The women dancers cover their faces with a veil. They dance while singing traditional songs. They perform circular movements which display the spectacular colours of their flowing 'ghaghras'



### Gair Dance

The Gair dance is basically a tribal dance. It is performed by both men and women during Holi festival. The dress is basically a long tunic that opens out as a skirt. The dance beats are given by sticks. The 'geendad dance' of shekhawati is somewhat similar to it.



### TerahTaal/Taali

The 'TerahTaal/Taali' (thirteen beat) dance is a musical dance. It is performed by women. The dancers place 'manjeeras' (little brass discs) at thirteen places on their body. Their male accompanists sing and play 'Tandoora'. The women dance with fine movements which create a strong rhythm with 'manjeeras'.



### Walar Dance

The Walar is an important dance of Garasia tribe. It is somewhat similar to Ghoomar.



## Gavri Dance

The most famous Bhil drammatrical dance is the Gavri dance. It has a troupe which gives dance performance village to village for a month. Its nine functionaries follow a strict regimen. Between the enactment of various episodes, the entire troupe dances around a central spot consecrated to a deity.



## Kathputli Dance

In Kathputli dance, puppets are made to dance by the puppeteer with the help of the strings tied to the puppets.



## Glossary

induce	:	to make body to do something
gyrating	:	moving in a circle
spectacular	:	very impressive to see
twirl	:	to turn round and round quickly
troupe	:	a group of entertainers who tour to different places
regimen	:	a regulated system of diet, exercise, etc.

## Activity I

### A. Tick the correct alternative-

i) In which dance does the dancer balance eight to nine brass pitchers on the head?

- a) Chari dance
- b) Ghoomar dance
- c) Bhavai dance
- d) Gavri dance

ii) The movements of which dance are similar to the movement of the serpents?

- a) Ghumoor Dance
- b) Walar dance
- c) Gair dance
- d) Kalbelia dance

### B. Answer each of the following questions in 20-30 words-

- i.) What do you know about the Ghoomar dance?
- ii.) What similarity do you find in Chari and Bhavai dances?
- iii.) How is TerahTaal/Taali dance different from other dances in a special way?
- iv.) Why do you like Gavri dance? Give reasons.
- v.) Which of these dances do you like most and why?

## Activity II

A. Match the following singular number in **column 'A'** with their plural number in **column 'B'**



**A**

dance  
foot  
woman  
glass  
story  
boy  
knife

**B**

knives  
stories  
boys  
glasses  
women  
feet  
dances

**B. Fill in the blanks with the opposite gender of the words given in brackets-**

- i) Ghoomar is basically a community dance for.....(men)
- ii) Their.....accompanists sing and play tandoora. (female)
- iii) .....students also enjoy Rajasthani folk dances. (Boy)

### Activity III

**A. Read the following sentences carefully-**



1. Walar is an important dance of Garasia tribe.
  2. Ghoomar dancers display beautiful movements of the body.
- The words 'important' and 'beautiful' tell us more about the words 'dance' and 'movements'. These words (important and beautiful) are called adjectives.

**Now fill in the following blanks choosing the correct adjective from those given in the brackets at the end of the sentence-**

- i) You are my..... father. (bad/worse/dear)
- ii) Ghoomar is the most.....dance of Rajasthan. (popular/holy/religious)



- iii) Gair is a.....dance. (national/tribal/global)
- iv) The TerahTaal/Taali is a.....dance. (silent/mute/musical)
- v) Gavri is a.....dance. (drammatical/national/bad)
- vi) The costumes in the Kalbelia dance are of .....colour.  
(green/yellow/black)

### Activity IV



**Listen to the following paragraph read out by the teacher-**

In India, dance is believed to have been conceived by Brahma. Brahma inspired the sage, Bharat Muni to write *NatyaShastra* (a treatise on performing arts). Bharat Muni used *Pathya* (words) from *the Rigveda*, *Abhinaya* (gestures) from *the Yajurveda*, *Geet* (music) from *the Samaveda* and *Rasa* (emotions) from *the Atharvaveda*. Thus, he formed the *Natyaveda*.

**Now, answer the following question orally-**

- i) Who is believed to have conceived about dance in India?
- ii) Which treatise on performing arts was written by the sage, Bharat Muni?
- iii) From which Veda did he take *Pathya* (words)?
- iv) Who composed the *Natyaveda*?
- v) What was taken from the *Samaveda*?

### Activity V

**Write a short paragraph on the 'FolkDances of Rajasthan'**

