



Topic: Dancing In The Street - Unit 5

Year: 5

Strand: Motown



**Facts/Info**

Dancing In The Street was written by Marvin Gaye, William "Mickey" Stevenson and Ivy Jo Hunter. It first became popular in 1964 with Martha And The Vandellas. The track was recorded on the Motown record label and became one of its signature songs.

The Motown Record Corporation, or Motown (also called Hitsville recording company), was founded by Berry Gordy, Jr., in Detroit, Michigan, in January 1959. The record company became one of the most successful black-owned businesses and one of the most influential independent record companies in American history. The company gave its name to the hugely popular style of soul music that it created.

**Enquiry Questions**

1. Listen and appraise -

What is the structure of the song?

What instruments can you hear?

Can you find the pulse as you are listening?

Is the tempo fast, slow or in between?

Dynamics? Texture?

Reflection

What did you like best about this Unit? Why?

Was there anything you didn't enjoy about it? Why?

Did you have any strong feelings about it?

Were you proud of yourself, happy or annoyed?

What are the 'style indicators' of Motown?

**Key Vocabulary**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Soul music    | Music that originated in African American gospel singing, is closely related to rhythm and blues, and is characterized by intensity of feeling and vocal embellishments |
| groove        | A rhythm  |
| riff          | A short repeated tune   |
| bass line     | The part played by the bass guitar  |
| backbeat      | A steady pronounced rhythm stressing the second and fourth beats of a four-beat measure.  |
| brass section | The brass section of the orchestra, concert band, and jazz ensemble consist of brass instruments, and is one of the main sections in all three ensembles.               |
| harmony       | Two or more notes played at the same time   |
| hook          | A hook is a musical idea, often a short riff, passage, or phrase, that is used in popular music to make a song appealing and to "catch the ear of the listener".        |
| melody        | A sequence of musical notes played in a particular order.   |
| compose       | To create music   |
| improvise     | The playing of music creatively in the moment, often in   |
| cover         | A cover song is a remake  |
| pulse         | Pulse is a steady beat like a ticking clock or your heart-  |
| rhythm,       | A pattern of sounds of different lengths.   |
| pitch,        | How high or low a specific note sounds.   |
| tempo         | The speed at which music is played.   |
| dynamics,     | How loud or quiet the music is being played.  |
| timbre        | The quality of the music played   |
| texture       | In music, texture is how the tempo, melody and  |
| structure     | The order that different parts of the song are played in.   |

**Retrieval Quiz**

- Who wrote 'Dancing in the Street'?
- When did Dancing in the Street first become popular?
- What was the record label it was record on called?
- Who founded the Motown record corporation?
- What is a riff?
- What is a harmony?
- What word means to create music?
- What is a remake of a song called?
- Which instrument plays the base line?
- What is the meaning of the word 'dynamics'?

**Useful Websites**

[Introducing Your Child to Motown \(nerdywithchildren.com\)](http://nerdywithchildren.com)