

World of Wonder

Educational Standards and Suggested Activities

Release week Jan. 31, 2010: Isadora Duncan

Standards

- *Current Events*: Students will read about human-rights issues in the newspaper.
- *Fine Arts*: Students will compare traditional ballet to Isadora's style of dance.
- *Social Studies*: Students will research issues at the beginning of the 20th century and how Isadora clashed with some of the norms.

Activities

1. *Use the News*: Isadora Duncan was actively involved in changing society's attitudes toward a woman's right to pursue her goals and dreams. What human-rights issues are mentioned in the newspaper today? Read the paper, and discuss any issues you find.
2. How did Isadora's dance movements look in comparison to traditional ballet? Watch some videos, and use your own descriptive words to compare these two types of dance. Here are some online videos to get you started: first, "Swan Lake" (traditional ballet); next, a re-creation of Isadora's dances; finally (just for fun), a clip from "Fantasia" (animated dance):
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FY4Y1gTO9HE&feature=related>
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBE11_sfTDE&feature=related
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pbQdtkbCcQ&feature=related>.
3. What made Isadora's life in the early 1900s so controversial? Research more about her life, dance and philosophies. Where did she live? Who did she marry? What were the current events of her time? Write a report about why some people admired her and others rejected her.

World of Wonder meets many state educational standards. This guide helps teachers identify standards and related activities generally intended for Grade 6, but teachers can modify activities to the appropriate grade level.