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AUSTRIA: ROUTE 1

1 OF 2

The classical quest

MUSIC FOR DANCING

Dancing and music have always gone together. But the kinds of dances people enjoyed 250 years ago were quite different to those we know today. Between the time of Mozart and Johann Strauss II in Austria – a period of about 150 years – dance fashions changed radically. From Strauss's time until now (another 150 years) dance fashions have continued to change a lot.

HOW? WHY? CAN YOU FIND OUT?**Quest 1**

What can you discover about the dances in Mozart's time (around 1750) – their names, styles, music, how and when they were danced – compared to Johann Strauss's time (around 1850)?

Can you tell the difference between Mozart's dance music and Strauss's dance music? What is it about the rhythm, melody or harmony that makes them different? (Think about speed, instrument sounds, rhythm patterns and melodies.)

Start by creating a 'dance chart' as a way of organising your research. (See the worksheet on the next page.)

Here are suggestions for your research.

- For each era, try to find an example of typical fashion styles of the day – the sort of clothes people might wear when dancing.
- Try to find a recording of a typical dance tune for each type of dance you discover.

Quest 2

- If you have audio/video editing facilities, you could create a short video documentary presenting the fashions with the correct background music and perhaps a commentary.
- Learn the steps of one dance from each era, for example the minuet, waltz, twist and salsa. Try to learn from someone who can already do the dance.
- Dances can tell us a lot about a society. Look at which dances allow the partners to touch, for instance, and which dances allow you to meet many different people during its course. There are also dances where people stay entirely on their own or in a random group.
- Not all dances are purely for pleasure or recreation. Can you discover other reasons why people dance?
- Some dances in the past (and present?) have been banned or strongly disapproved of. Can you find out which ones and why?

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Dance name	Who danced it? e.g. young, old rich, poor, everyone	Dance type e.g. couples, singles, circle, chain	Where was it danced? e.g. club, family home, ballroom, outside
1750s 1	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____
1850s 1	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____
1950s 1	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____
2000s 1	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____