

Brazilian Dance

Liz Gogerly

1 Capoeira (say /kap-oo-air-a/) is a spectacular mix of martial arts, acrobatics, music and dance. It combines graceful leaps, flips and spins with powerful kicks and takedowns.

4 How to play

A group of players (the capoeiristas) sit or stand in a circle, called a *roda*. Two capoeiristas play the game (*jogo*), in the centre of the *roda*. They do not make contact with each other, instead, they combine flowing movements to “attack” and “evade” each other. Capoeira is a battle of wills and skills, and everyone gets a turn in the middle of the circle.

10 Music and rhythm

Capoeira is always played to music. People in the *roda* play instruments or chant and clap out rhythms. The music sets the pace of the game, and helps players to coordinate their moves. It includes songs sung in Portuguese that are played on a group of specific instruments (the *bateria*).

15 Pulling rank

Like other martial arts, capoeira has a ranking system. Capoeiristas work hard over many years to achieve the next grade.

18 The student

Once a person starts playing capoeira, he or she is called an *aluno* or student. The student has a baptism (*batizado*) where they are given their own ranking cord or belt (a *cordao*) to wear around their waist.

22 The graduate

When a student is good enough to teach others, he or she becomes a graduate and is called an *aluno graduado*. While the graduate can teach others how to play, they cannot be the main teacher or have their own capoeira school.

26 The teacher

Once a capoeirista is good enough to be an assistant instructor, he or she is called an *aluno formado*. After several years of training under their capoeira master (*mestre*), an *aluno formado* can become a teacher and then they may run their own capoeira school.

33 Master

Mestre is the highest rank any capoeirista can achieve. A *mestre* is a teacher who is given the title of master by others. Usually the *mestre* has trained for 15 to 20 years.

37 Capoeira culture

Community and friendship are a huge part of capoeira. People at all levels play together. Experienced capoeiristas help novices to learn new moves. Players learn the core values of respect, responsibility, safety and freedom.



Name:	Class:	Date:
-------	--------	-------

1 Look at the first paragraph.

Capoeira is a mix of different activities. **Find and copy two** activities.

2b

1 mark

2 “*Capoeira is a battle of wills and skills*”

Tick **one** from the list below to complete the following sentence.

This means that as well as testing the capoeiristas’ skills, it tests ...

their strength their sense of rhythm their kicking ability their mind

2a

1 mark

3 Why are capoeiristas unlikely to hurt each other during a *jogo*?

2d

1 mark

4 **Find and copy two** reasons why music is so important to capoeira.

2b

1 mark

5 Number the capoeira ranks below to show the order in which a capoeirista might achieve them.

aluno *aluno formado* *aluno graduado* *mestre*

2c

1 mark

6 Draw lines to join each word to its meaning.

<i>batizado</i>	a belt
<i>bateria</i>	instruments
<i>cordao</i>	baptism
<i>jogo</i>	circle
<i>roda</i>	game

2b

2 marks

7 **Find and copy one** word from the final paragraph that means the same as *beginner*.

2a

1 mark

8 Why are some words written in italics?

2f

1 mark

9 Tick **one** box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
People in the <i>roda</i> can choose to play any instrument.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All players help and encourage the <i>alunos</i> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Only a <i>mestre</i> can open a capoeira school.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All players who train for 20 years become a <i>mestre</i> .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2b

2 marks