

Explore Yup'ik Dance

“And the dancer would move with the rhythm, using body and arm movements to illustrate the story portrayed in the song.”

-Wassilie Berlin, quoted in alaska.si.edu/record.asp?id=216



Cama-i Dance Festival, Bethel: camai.org

In Yup'ik cultures, musicians play the drum and sing while dancers tell a story with their movements. Their dance fans (*tegumiak*) help draw attention to the movements of their arms.

Watch videos of Yup'ik dancers, linked below. Observe how they use their dance fans to help tell a story!

- **Chevak Dancers:** www.youtube.com/watch?v=m21KB4TjMkY
- **Toksook Bay Dancers:** www.youtube.com/watch?v=QzboKrHSsn4
- **Yup'ik Seal Dance:** www.youtube.com/watch?v=uL_n3w4Vtl
- **Acilquq Drummers and Dancers:** www.youtube.com/watch?v=beU485Bxqxs
- **Mount Edgecumbe Dancers:** www.youtube.com/watch?v=m77RRqlptek



Think and Discuss:

What story do you think each dance group is telling? Watch their movements for clues!

What dances are important to your family, community, or culture?

Can you tell a story by dancing? Think of a story and dance it out!



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