STEP AFRIKA!
STEP UP TO COLLEGE

STUDENT ACTIVITY JOURNAL
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EDITION

Student

School

Grade
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All About Step Afrika!</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is Stepping?</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elements and Qualities of Stepping</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step Afrika! Word Search Fun</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Greek Alphabet</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Greek Alphabet Exercise</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage Directions Worksheet</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Grow Up (Part I)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When I Grow Up (Part II)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Reflections</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All About Step Afrika!

C. Brian Williams, the founder and executive director of Step Afrika!, attended Howard University in Washington, D.C., where he learned how to step. Later, he visited South Africa, and saw a young boy dancing a style that looked very similar to stepping. Recognizing the connection, Brian sought to find a way for Africans and Americans to bridge the gap between their dances, music, and culture. In 1994, he founded Step Afrika!, the first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping. Step Afrika! ranks as one of the top ten African American dance companies in the United States.

The collaborative nature of our work teaches the dancers three-core values:

Teamwork: working together to accomplish a goal
Discipline: having the self-control and focus necessary to achieve
Commitment: being dedicated to something

Today, Step Afrika! is known not only for its engaging, high energy performances, but for its artistic innovation as well. Most recently, Washingtonian christened Step Afrika! a showstopper – “one of twenty exciting performers and groups well worth a trip to the theater!”

We Step

We promote an appreciation for stepping and its use as an educational, motivational and healthy tool for young people. We structure our performances and programs to connect intimately with our audience and create a positive influence on students’ lives.

We Tour

Step Afrika! performs in more than 50 U.S. and Canadian cities each year. As a cultural ambassador, Step Afrika! also partners with various organizations to perform for audiences all over the world. During international visits, Step Afrika! joins local dance groups and other arts organizations to develop performances that blend the styles of different cultures and create a unique experience for the audience. Step Afrika! programs are a testament to the power of the arts; bringing communities together and building tolerance, unity and acceptance among young people everywhere.

We Teach

Step Afrika! has been dedicated to arts education since its inception. We present the art, values, and culture of stepping to students of all grades and backgrounds. We have become a model for using stepping as an educational tool. Exhibiting the organization’s core values of teamwork, discipline, and commitment, Step Afrika! presents the following programs:

• Stepping with Step Afrika! in-school performance
• Step Up to College residency program
• Master Class Workshops
• Summer Steps with Step Afrika! summer camp
• Step Afrika! Scholars Program

For more information about our arts education programs, visit www.stepafrika.org, or email info@stepafrika.org.
What is Stepping?

Stepping is a dance that uses the body as an instrument. It combines footsteps, claps, and spoken words to produce complex rhythms, and has roots in African dance and military marching. In stepping, the dancers wear hard-soled shoes that create loud sounds against the floor. Step Afrika! is a dance company committed to furthering the tradition of stepping.

Stepping is a dance form full of energy, pride, and tradition. As you learn how to step, remember to display confidence and trust not only in yourself but also in your step team. Stepping requires teamwork, discipline and commitment – three principles that all steppers must have and that the pioneers of stepping embodied.

College: Where Stepping was Born

In the early 1900s, African American students who became members of college organizations called sororities and fraternities developed stepping. (Sororities are for women and fraternities are for men.) Stepping became a way that members could show pride and love for their organizations.

It’s Everywhere!

Though stepping is traditionally associated with college groups, the art form is universal and highly appealing to young people. Today, stepping can be found in elementary, middle, and high schools across the United States as well as in churches and community-based organizations. Are there step teams in your community? Where?

What Makes Up a Step?

There are many different moves that make up a step. Let’s learn and demonstrate these moves together:

- **Blade** – To make a BLADE, extend all your fingers, but keep them close together. Straighten your arms so it does not bend at the elbow or wrist. A BLADE can be thrown at many angles.

- **Punch** – Extend your arm forward and close your fist. Make sure to keep your arm straight when you throw a PUNCH. Place your left hand, fist closed, across your chest. This is the classic PUNCH position. Switch positions with both arms to punch each side.

- **Spin** – When you turn around while stepping, it is called a SPIN. You can SPIN all the way around and back to the front. Stomp one foot on the floor in front of you, and then turn your body in the opposite direction. (If you stomp on your left foot, SPIN right. If you stomp on your right foot, SPIN left.) Use your arms in the air to help you balance. You can SPIN fast or slow.

- **Clap** – Extend your fingers and slap your hands together. A CLAP can be done in front of you, behind your back, underneath your leg or even with someone else.

- **Kick** – Use one leg to leap in the air. With the other leg, KICK your foot back toward the floor behind you. You can do a KICK behind you or in front of you. You can do many KICKS together. A lot of steppers clap under their leg when they finish doing KICKS.
Elements and Qualities of Stepping

Research
Look up the following words that describe the elements and qualities of stepping. Create your own brief definition.

Core Values of Stepping
Teamwork
Discipline
Commitment

Qualities of Stepping
Innovative
Choreography
Energy
Precision
Diction
Voice Projection

Elements of a Step Show
Theme
Costumes
Introduction
Transition Step
Special Effect/Stunt
Chant
Strolls
Outro/Closing
Step Afrika! Word Search

INSTRUCTIONS: You are learning new vocabulary words about stepping that you can also find in this Step Afrika! Word Search. See if you can find all the words that are listed below.

- Attention
- Clap
- Diction
- Fraternity
- Projection
- Spin
- University
- Career
- College
- Discipline
- Journal
- Punch
- Stepping

Step Afrika!
Choreography
Commitment
Energy
Kick
Sorority
Teamwork
# The Greek Alphabet

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<th>lowercase</th>
<th>pronunciation</th>
<th>meaning</th>
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The Greek Alphabet Exercise

INSTRUCTIONS: The letters below represent the names of the historically African-American fraternities and sororities who practice stepping. Three letters of the Greek Alphabet represent each name. Using the Greek Letter Chart provided, write out the full name of each of the organizations listed below.

Fraternities

ΑΦΑ ________________________________ Fraternity, Inc.
Founded: 1906 Colors: Black and Old Gold

ΚΑΨ ________________________________ Fraternity, Inc.
Founded: 1911 Colors: Crimson and Cream

ΩΨΦ ________________________________ Fraternity, Inc.
Founded: 1911 Colors: Purple and Gold

ΦΒΣ ________________________________ Fraternity, Inc.
Founded: 1914 Colors: Royal Blue and Pure White

ΙΦΘ ________________________________ Fraternity, Inc.
Founded: 1963 Colors: Charcoal Brown and Gilded Gold

Sororities

ΑΚΑ ________________________________ Sorority, Inc.
Founded: 1908 Colors: Salmon Pink and Apple Green

ΔΣΘ ________________________________ Sorority, Inc.
Founded: 1913 Colors: Crimson and Cream

ΖΦΒ ________________________________ Sorority, Inc.
Founded: 1920 Colors: Royal Blue and Pure White

ΣΓΡ ________________________________ Sorority, Inc.
Founded: 1922 Colors: Royal Blue and Gold

Write your own name using the Greek Capital and Lower-case letters:
Stage Directions

Use the following diagram to write the universal theatre stage directions.

Please write the entire word, not just the number or letters.

**Audience**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upstage</td>
<td>Center Stage</td>
<td>Downstage Right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upstage Right</td>
<td>Upstage Left</td>
<td>Downstage Left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downstage</td>
<td>Stage Right</td>
<td>Stage Left</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When I Grow Up – Part I

INSTRUCTIONS: Upon entering college, a student must choose a particular program to study. This program determines what type of degree you will earn. Below is a list of possible careers. Match the careers to the correct program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctor</td>
<td>Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software programmer</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentist</td>
<td>Arts &amp; Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountant</td>
<td>Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Health Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>Engineering, Architecture, &amp; Computer Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadcast journalist</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical therapist</td>
<td>Dentistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dancer</td>
<td>Communications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List three things you learned about college during your Step Afrika class:

1. ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________

2. ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________

3. ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________________________________
When I Grow Up – Part II

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Have you thought about what you would like to do (also called a profession or career) when you grow up? List three careers you might want to pursue and why.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Career/Profession</th>
<th>Why I want to do this</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Do you know anyone in these careers?

________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
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Daily Reflections

Think about your day today. What was one person, place, object, or situation that made it good. Write out the story to help you remember this day.

Date: ___________________

_________________________________________________________________________________________________

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Date: ___________________

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Date: ___________________

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Journal