

# Brazilian Dance

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Capoeira is a spectacular mix of martial arts, acrobatics, music and dance. It combines graceful leaps, flips and spins with powerful kicks and takedowns.

## 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 contact each other, instead, they combine the 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.

## 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*).

## Pulling rank

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

### *The student*

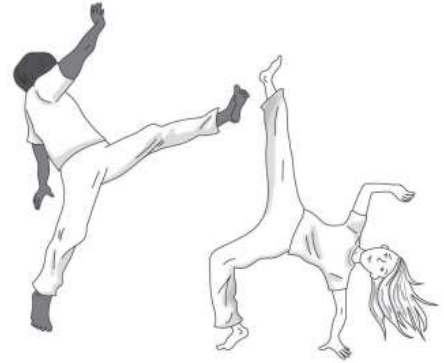
Once a person starts playing capoeira, he or she is called an *aluno* or student. The student has a baptism (*batizado*) where they are given their own ranking cord or belt (*a cordao*) to wear around their waist.

### *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.

### *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 may choose to run their own capoeira school.



### *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.

### **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.

Read the article *Brazilian Dance*, then answer the questions that follow.

1. Look at the first paragraph.

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

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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	<input type="checkbox"/>	their sense of rhythm	<input type="checkbox"/>
their kicking ability	<input type="checkbox"/>	their mind	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

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

<i>aluno</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>aluno formado</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>aluno graduado</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>mestre</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
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6. Draw lines to join each word to its meaning.

*batizado*

a belt

*bateria*

instruments

*cordao*

baptism

*jogo*

circle

*roda*

game

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

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8. Why are some words written in italics?

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

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

Nos.	Answer	Assessment Focus
1	Accept any two of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· martial arts</li> <li>· acrobatics</li> <li>· music</li> <li>· dance</li> </ul>	Retrieve and record information
2.	Their mind	Explain the meaning of words in context
3.	Capoeira is a non-contact sport	Explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text
4.	It sets the pace of the game. It helps the players to coordinate their moves.	Retrieve and record information
5.	<i>aluno</i> <i>aluno formado</i> <i>aluno graduado</i> <i>mestre</i>	Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph
6.		Retrieve and record information from non-fiction
7.	novice	Explain the meaning of words in context
8.	Accept: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· A reference to technical vocabulary associated with the game</li> <li>· An understanding that they are words from another language</li> </ul>	Identify how information is related and contributes to the meaning as a whole
9.	a) False – b) True – c) False – d) False	Identify key details from non-fiction