

COMPREHENSION



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Spain

*Read The Article And
Answer The Questions.*

Flamenco and its origins

Evoking passion, temperament, and energy, **flamenco** is one of the most exhilarating art forms to witness, both in the visual and the audible sense.

Spain has gone through centuries of a cultural revolution and this comes through in every **stump** of the dancer's feet, the **strum** of the musician's guitar, and the **clap** of the singer's hands. This art is deeply rooted in the **gypsy** culture of Andalusia, a region in the south of Spain.

Three very distinct phases are recognizable in the evolution of Flamenco. The arrival of the **gypsies** to Spain, the romantic era, and Franco's dictatorship.

The **gypsies** arrived in the 15th century and came from countries like India, Iran, and Egypt. They amalgamated all the folk dances they encountered on their journey and created their art of expression.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, **flamenco** gained more recognition and became prominent in the literature and arts.

In the late 19th century, **flamenco** became more commercialized and its popularity increased with the opening of cafes and bars where evening visitors were entertained by its songs and dance.

A combination of **gypsy** flamenco and opera, flamenco transformed into a popular culture amongst the aristocrats and elites.

The **flamenco** dance as we know it today was adopted as a national dance by the Spanish dictator, Francisco Franco during his power from 1939 to 1975.

Comprehension Questions

1. Who brought flamenco to Spain?
2. What are the distinct characteristics of the flamenco dance?
3. Name the three phases that helped develop the flamenco over centuries?
4. How did flamenco become more popular in the 19th century?
5. What is the name of the Spanish dictator who declared flamenco a national dance?

Fill the Gaps

Flamenco gypsies guitar clapping stump

_____ is an art of dancing, singing and _____ hands. It was brought to Spain by early _____. Singing is accompanied by the _____ of the dancer's feet and the strum of the musician's _____.

Teacher's Key

Comprehension Questions

1. Who brought flamenco to Spain?

The Gypsies

2. What are the distinct characteristics of the flamenco dance?

Singing, stumping of feet, and clapping hands together with guitar music

3. Name the three phases that helped develop the flamenco over centuries?

The arrival of the gypsies in Spain, the Romantic Era, and Franco's adaptation of the dance as a national art form

4. How did flamenco become more popular in the 19th century?

With the opening of bars and cafes, the dance was a popular form of entertainment for the aristocracy and elites when they dined.

5. What is the name of the Spanish dictator who declared flamenco a national dance?

Francisco Franco

Fill the Gaps

Flamenco gypsies guitar clapping stump

Flamenco is an art of dancing, singing, and **clapping** hands. It was brought to Spain by early **gypsies**. Singing is accompanied by the **stump** of the dancer's feet and the strum of the musician's **guitar**.

*Teacher's
Key*

