

## **HISTORICAL RESEARCH OUTLINE: THE ERA OF DANCE FROM THE 1940'S THROUGH THE 1960'S**

THEIS: Dance from the 1940s through the 1960s was one of the most popular eras of dance known in the United States. From the high point of swing in the 40s to the party dance of the twist in the 60s, this era of dance saw the biggest transformation in style, music and technique. Its popularity inspired a culture of dance that continues today.

- I. Dances Origins
  - A. The Jitterbug originated in dance clubs through its rhythm and beat of jazz band music (Debra Stein).
  - B. In the 50's lots of the dance crazes started from kids dancing on live television and others trying to copy eachothers styles (Jimmy Foulard).
  - C. The Jerk in the 60's was originated from the New Boys (Chris Davis).
  
- II. Craze in America
  - A. The twist and mashed potato became a big craze in the 60's (Judith Baughman).
  - B. Throughout the 40's and 50's the biggest craze was swing or modern swing related dances (Jonathan Gill).
  - C. At the beginning of the 60's bebop was the king of dance but got challenged with flashy styles of dance, like jazz (Judith Baughman).
  
- III. The big change
  - A. From the 50's and 60's the biggest change was the dance styles, heading from partner work to single party moves. For example, the 50's ballroom was still a big part of dance but, in the 60's when the big craze of the twist came on single moves became more popular (Jimmy Foulard).
  - B. Music changed the dance scene from the 40's and 50's as it developed from jazz band music to rock and roll music (Sarah Cooper).
  
- IV. Top hits
  - A. 40's- In the mood by Glenn Miller (Debra Stein).
  - B. 50's- how high the moon (Jimmy Foulard).
  - C. 60's- more than one song hit the top of the charts during this decade. One popular hit was the Beatles "Twist and Shout" (Judith Baughman).
  
- V. Clothing/Fashion
  - A. The style of clothing stayed simple. Basics wear was the calf skirt and shirt (Jonathan Gill).
  - B. Males mostly wore the average slacks and polo (Jonathan Gill).