

**BECAUSE  
OF THEM  
WE CAN**

**BOX**  
**JUST FOR KIDS**

# BECAUSE OF ALVIN AILEY & JUDITH JAMISON

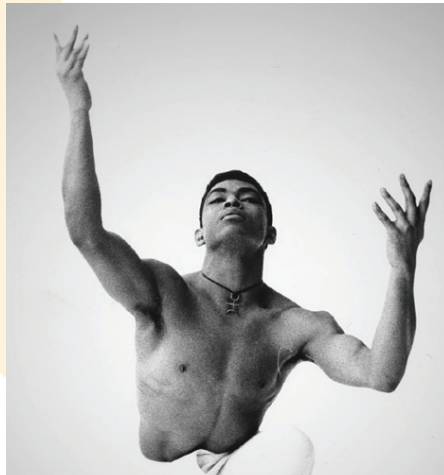
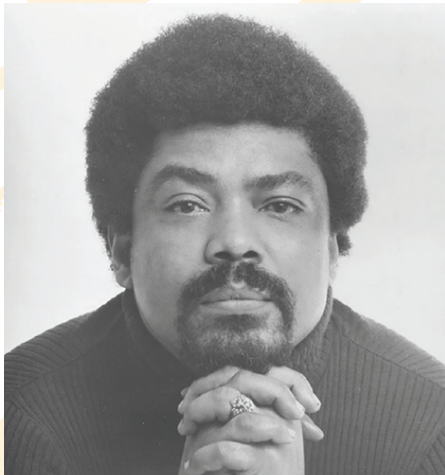
AGES 9-12

BOTWC MINIS POSING AS  
JUDITH JAMISON  
& ALVIN AILEY





# TWO LIVES INTERTWINED



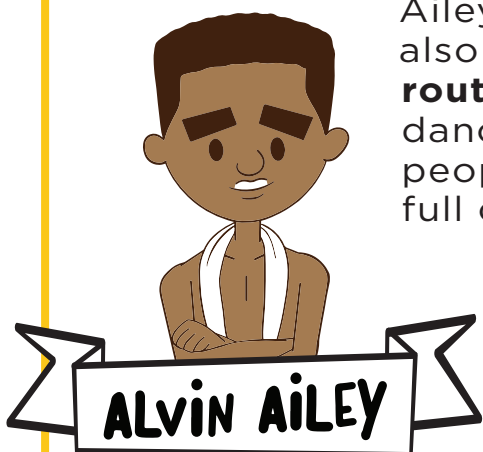
## ALVIN AILEY

Have you ever heard of the Alvin Ailey Dance company? Well it's not just a name – Alvin Ailey was one of the most influential **choreographers** and dancers of modern dance.

He was born in 1931 and in 1958, at just 27 years old, he **founded** (or opened) his own dance theater called the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

He grew up raised by a single mother who was only a teen when she had him. He loved the music and dance that he saw at church and the dancehall. After he saw a dance performance himself, he knew his dream was to become a dancer – and he did it.

He was a great dancer and he learned a lot from Lester Horton. He even joined Horton's dance company so he could perform in his early dance career. Just a few years later he performed on **Broadway**, which has top shows that are known by a lot of people – it's one of the biggest **achievements** for dancers and performers.

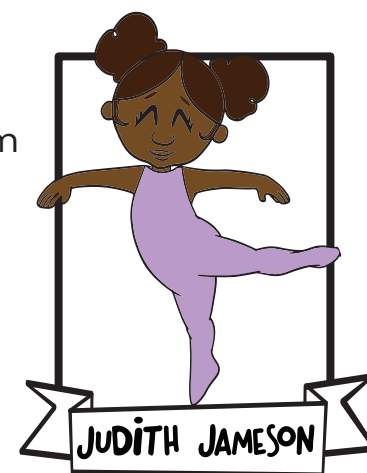


Ailey was a dancer but he also started to create dance **routines**. He loved that dance helped to show Black people as free and full of joy. His dance company has become famous around the world, and also the best known for its diversity and **inclusion** of Black dancers.

## JUDITH JAMISON

Judith Jamison was a dancer at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. She was born in Philadelphia to parents who **encouraged** her to study piano and violin. She started dancing very early, at the age of six. After she **graduated** high school she went to Fisk University for college but she left to go to a dance academy.

She first danced with the American Ballet Theatre in New York. After dancing with them for about a year, Alvin Ailey invited her to join his dance company. She did many shows with the company and Ailey even created a 15-minute solo dance routine for her called "Cry".



Jamison was a superstar and did many ballet shows for companies all over the world. However, when Ailey asked her to take over as **artistic** director she came back with open arms. She took the dance company to major heights! She has won many awards for her dance, her choreography, and her leadership.



# READ & RESPOND

1. Who began dancing first?

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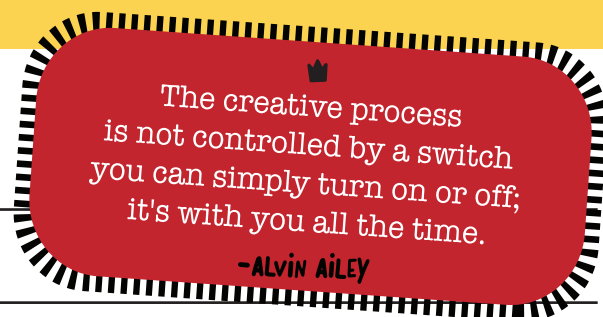
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2. What are some similarities between Ailey and Jamison?

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3. What is the connection between Ailey and Jamison?

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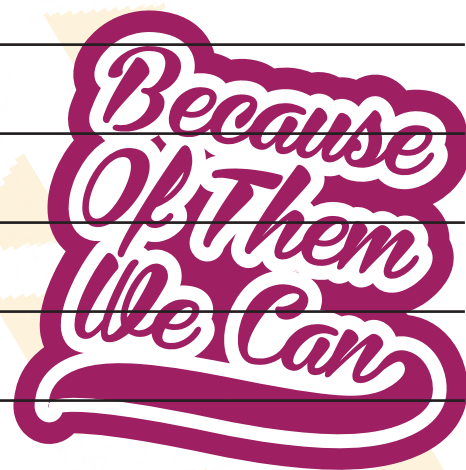
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# DANCE, DANCE, AND MORE DANCE!

Instructions: We see dance all the time. If you have ever watched an awards show, gone to a concert, watched a movie, or even seen a sports game like the Super Bowl, you have watched dancers. Dancing can be something you just do on your own, or if you are part of a group you all may learn the same dance and then perform it. When someone designs a dance that is called choreography. You will learn a line dance using the choreography below. After you do a dance that was created by someone else, you will then have the chance to create your own dance.



STEP 1:	Take your right foot and step to the right
STEP 2:	Bring your right foot back in
STEP 3:	Take your left foot and step to the left
STEP 4:	Bring your left foot back in
STEP 5:	Hop
STEP 6:	Hop
STEP 7:	Clap
STEP 8:	Clap



I WANTED TO EXPLORE  
BLACK CULTURE  
AND I WANTED THAT CULTURE  
TO BE A REVELATION.



## GLOSSARY

**Choreographer** - the person who decides how a dancer or group of dancers will move during a performance

**Inclusion** - to have (someone or something) as part of a group or total

**Founded** - began or created (something that is meant to last for a long time)

**Broadway** - a street in New York City where there are many theaters — used to refer to the world of the theater in New York City

**Achievement** - something that has been done or achieved through effort : a result of hard work

**Routine** - a series of things (such as movements or jokes) that are repeated as part of a performance

**Encouraged** - made (someone) more determined, hopeful, or confident

**Artistic** - relating to art or artists

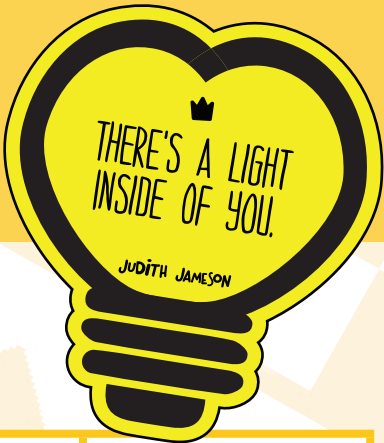
# DANCE, DANCE, AND MORE DANCE!

Try this dance to a song you like. Many dances have an eight count. Now you can create your own dance. Create eight movements. In each box, write the directions for the movement and draw a picture. See if you can teach the dance to someone or perform it for them.

STEP 1:	STEP 2:	STEP 3:	STEP 4:
Directions:	Directions:	Directions:	Directions:
Picture:	Picture:	Picture:	Picture:

STEP 5:	STEP 6:	STEP 7:	STEP 8:
Directions:	Directions:	Directions:	Directions:
Picture:	Picture:	Picture:	Picture:

# DANCE PATTERNS



In many dances there is time where you repeat the moves and there are patterns. Answer the questions below filling in the missing number.

1)

2	4	6	8		
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Pattern: \_\_\_\_\_

2)

5	8		14	17	
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Pattern: \_\_\_\_\_

3)

Ballet Shoes	1	2	3	4	5
Cost	13	26		52	65

Pattern: \_\_\_\_\_

4)

Leotard	5	10	15	20	25
Cost	100	200	300		500

Pattern: \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWER KEY: (1) 10, 12 Pattern: Add 2 (2) 11, 20 Pattern: Add 3 (3) 39 Pattern: Multiply by 13 (4) 400 Pattern: Multiply by 20

## TAKE THE PLEDGE

I WILL HONOR  
THE SACRIFICES OF  
MY ANCESTORS.

I WILL BELIEVE  
IN ME.

I WILL PURSUE  
MY DREAMS.

I WILL HELP  
OTHERS ALONG  
THE WAY.