

Why I fell in love with Irish dancing

Morgan Bullock is an African-American Irish dancer. Watch this video to find out about her story.

Tasks

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary

1. a recital
2. to go viral
3. tanner
4. inappropriate
5. cultural appropriation
6. Riverdance
7. to have guts
8. to postpone

Definition

- a. taking things from a culture that is not your own, especially without showing you understand or respect it
- b. something you apply to your skin to make it look sun-tanned
- c. to be brave and determined
- d. a performance of dance, music, poetry, etc.
- e. a popular theatrical show of traditional Irish music and dance
- f. to become very popular very quickly on the internet
- g. to delay an event and plan that it should happen at a later date
- h. not suitable for a particular condition

Task 1

Write a number (1–8) to put the events from Morgan's life in the correct order.

- _____ The US Riverdance tour was postponed.
- _____ Morgan went viral on TikTok with her Irish dancing.
- _____ Morgan is ready to perform with Riverdance whenever the tour takes place.
- _____ She started going to classes a few times a week and attended dance competitions.
- _____ Morgan was invited onto a very popular Irish radio show.
- _____ When she was a little girl, Morgan saw Irish dancing for the first time at a recital.
- _____ Some people accused her of cultural appropriation.
- _____ Padraic Moyles asked her to perform with Riverdance.

Task 2

Put the words in order to make sentences.

1. African-American the only you class? in the girl Were
2. don't issue. I ever think considered I it an
3. were not and you Irish dancing? Because you weren't Irish be performing
white, you shouldn't
4. difference between and appropriation There's appreciation. a
5. I think 'appropriation' knowing what it means. people use without the term
6. handling she's how proud I'm of it.
7. for yourself having out there. Thank you the guts to put
8. in terms of in that unique you showed video. what You are

Discussion

What type of dancing do you like?

Answers

Preparation task

1. d
2. f
3. b
4. h
5. a
6. e
7. c
8. g

Task 1

- 7 The US Riverdance tour was postponed.
- 3 Morgan went viral on TikTok with her Irish dancing.
- 8 Morgan is ready to perform with Riverdance whenever the tour takes place.
- 2 She started going to classes a few times a week and attended dance competitions.
- 5 Morgan was invited onto a very popular Irish radio show.
- 1 When she was a little girl, Morgan saw Irish dancing for the first time at a recital.
- 4 Some people accused her of cultural appropriation.
- 6 Padraic Moyles asked her to perform with Riverdance.

Task 2

1. Were you the only African-American girl in the class?
2. I don't think I ever considered it an issue.
3. Because you weren't Irish and you were not white, you shouldn't be performing Irish dancing?
4. There's a difference between appropriation and appreciation.
5. I think people use the term 'appropriation' without knowing what it means.
6. I'm proud of how she's handling it.
7. Thank you for having the guts to put yourself out there.
8. You are unique in terms of what you showed in that video.