



OVERVIEW GUIDE

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This series includes 5 episodes. You may stream these episodes on YouTube [HERE](#) or download them from Dropbox [HERE](#).

We are pleased to be able to offer this series with subtitles for English, French and Inuktitut.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ACCESS CLOSED CAPTIONING

- Click the “CC” icon in the bottom right hand corner of the YouTube video you’re playing, then click the “gear” icon right beside that (to the right).
- There will be a list of options, one of them being “subtitles/cc”. If you click on that option, you’ll be able to choose which language you’d like to view.
- That should do the trick! Every device is a little different, so if you encounter problems, a quick google search regarding “how to view subtitles on Youtube on XYZ device” might help.

EPIISODE SUMMARIES

EPIISODE 1 SUMMARY

(2:14 minutes)

- Introduction of sisters Colleen & Erin Searson
- What this series is about and why we made it
- What steps students will learn over the 5 episodes
- History of Ottawa Valley step dancing

Dig Deeper!

Find the Ottawa Valley on a world map; discuss the history of the logging industry in the Ottawa Valley (break into groups to research various topics such as pointer boats, shanty houses, etc.)

Example videos: [Logs End](#) and [Canada Vignettes: Log Driver's Waltz](#)

EPIISODE 2 SUMMARY

(12:21 minutes)

- Introduce basic moves like walking on tip toes, right and left foot, hop, shuffle, toe, stamp *Tip: if the students are very young, you may want to mark their right and left foot/shoe with different colours of tape, or you could put a sticker on their right shoe only, since it's the one they always use first.
- Shuffle drills with music
- Steps 1-3 are taught (We have mirrored the image to make following right and left instructions easier to follow!)

Dig Deeper!

As a class, view videos of [Donnie Gilchrist](#), the pioneer of Ottawa Valley step dancing performing on YouTube; consider having students look up others performing this style

EPIISODE 3 SUMMARY

(5:33 minutes)

- Children will not be dancing in this episode if you wish to keep them seated
- History of Ottawa Valley Fiddle by special guest Brian Hebert
- Fiddlers (Colleen & Brian) perform a traditional Ottawa Valley fiddle tune called 'Bread 'n Butter' by Ward Allen, accompanied by Erin on piano

Dig Deeper!

What are the names of a few other fiddle tunes that Ward Allen has written? Can you find and listen to recordings of some of these tunes? Who are other famous Canadian fiddlers from the past and from today?

EPISODE 4 SUMMARY

(8:28 minutes)

- review and practice the first 3 steps with music
- learn the next 3 steps
- try all 6 steps together with the music

Dig Deeper!

Talk about the importance of practicing and the benefits that it brings (not just for step dancing!) and brainstorm ideas for effective habits.

EPISODE 5 SUMMARY

(6:29 minutes)

- Review all 6 steps
- Learn 2 more steps
- Review all 8 steps with music
- Students can continue to review and practice these steps at school and at home!

Dig Deeper!

Encourage students to research other step dance styles to compare them with the Ottawa Valley style (suggestions might include Cape Breton, Québécois, Irish, Appalachian Flat Footing)

THANK YOU!

We made this series for you! And your school, your neighbours, your friends, your family, your church group, your community centre... Think big, and share it far and wide!

We will be sharing the series with school boards, student groups and seniors' homes in phases, beginning with our local area, then across Canada, and over time in other countries where we have built a fan base and have former students who have participated in live workshops with us.

This video series is free for all to enjoy and share. We ask that if you use it, or if you share it, you take a moment to fill out [THIS FORM](#). This will help us keep track of the reach of the project and help us to make decisions about what might be useful in a future project. Filling out the form is completely optional, and we thank you in advance for your consideration in giving us your feedback!

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