**Sakai Flamenco**

**PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE**

Flamenco was created in Spain, but how did it develop? Spain is a country with its own people and traditions, but for centuries it was conquered and inhabited by many different peoples including Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Sephardic Jews and North African Berbers. Out of this blending of cultures, flamenco was born.

Gypsies from East India, considered to be the catalysts of flamenco, wandered through Asia, the Middle East, Europe and North Africa, arriving in Southern Spain. Under Moorish rule, there were cultural and religious differences, but people lived together in relative peace. Before the Inquisition, Spain was a cradle of humanity, science and the arts.

With the coming of the Inquisition, many peoples, including gypsies, were rounded up, persecuted and expelled. People were forbidden to follow their own beliefs and traditions. This grief, frustration and anguish, was expressed in song, music and dance and became known as flamenco.

**THINK ABOUT IT**

How does Flamenco dance and music compare to other dance and music that you have seen or heard?

What most impressed you about the music and the dance? Why?

**DIG DEEPER**

To learn more about flamenco, check out The Music Center’s Artsource Curriculum: “Nuevo Ballet Español.”

www.musiccenter.org/education/Teacher-Resources/Artsource-Curriculum/Available-ArtSource-Units/Nuevo-Ballet-Espanol/

**TRY THIS CHALLENGE**

During the last two dances, you observed strong emotions being expressed through dance and music. Select a strong emotion you have experienced and write about it in a poem. Begin with a word web, where you write the emotion in the center and all the words you can think of that relate to the emotion are written around the edges. Use cinquain poetry or other poetry to explore this emotion.