

SWING CLASS

Last week we participated in a swing class. Our teacher, Carlos, first made us an introduction. He told us that the swing dance is from the decade of 1920-1940, and its origins are afro-americans.

We started the class walking around the pavilion and “feeling” the music. Then we had to, each time we made visual contact with one person, point at that person and say: Yeah!, to “feel cool”.

Then, the teacher started to show us some steps to finally make a choreography. The first step was clapping and waiting for the music to start, and do the first step: the “boogie forward” a step where you walk forwards “feeling cool” and then the “boogie back” the same step but backwards.

We did it three times and then, another step (I don't remember the name). In that step you move your right foot to the right, then forwards, spin on the left foot and go back to your initial position. Then, he showed us the “boogie drop”, a step where you step twice on your right foot and drop your body. Next, the “knee slap”, you slap twice on your leg, raising the leg a bit. You do the same with the left side and we did the next step: “The tackie Annie”. In this step you bend down a little bit and move your right foot backwards, and then the left one, doing it one after the other. We repeated all the steps together to memorize the choreography, and when we learned the first part, the teacher taught us the next step: the “mambo step”. This one was a little bit complicated, but we did it. We had to cross our legs and move one of them to the other side and cross again. Then, we did the final part of the dance, with a step where you raise your arm and then your finger, drawing circles with it, and spinning our bodies at the same time. Probably there are more steps but I don't clearly remember.

I had so much fun in the swing class and I loved the final choreography, and I hope we can do more of these activities.

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