

Hip Hop Nutcracker Ornament

Art Form: Visual Arts • Other: Dance

DESCRIPTION:

Create a silhouette of a Hip Hop Dancer **“Bustin’ A Move”** on a holiday ornament. A “silhouette” of a person is the image of the person shown as a solid shape of a single color. The edges match the outline of the person.

RECOMMENDED AGE(S):

5 to adult

TIME TO COMPLETE:

15 minutes or more depending on the amount of detail

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ▶ Blank wooden shaped ornament
- ▶ Black ultra-fine and fine point Sharpie Markers
- ▶ Colored permanent markers
- ▶ Cord or ribbon for hanging ornament

WHAT YOU DO:

1. **Draw the person’s body** as a rectangle, which can be straight up or at any angle for an active pose.
2. **Draw the neck** as a line at the top of the rectangle.
3. **Draw a head** as a circle or oval at the top of the neckline.
4. **Draw the legs** using lines, bend the legs at the knees to show a dance move. Use simple lines for the feet.
5. **Draw the arms** bending at the elbows, then draw a simple line for the hands.

Using a **black Sharpie pen** fill in all the areas to thicken the lines and define the **silhouette**. Using the colored markers decorate the rest of the ornament using a variety of lines, circles, dots, etc. Thread the cord or ribbon through the hole in the top of the ornament. Tie the two ends together as a bow or knot.



HOW YOU CAN SHARE:

Take a picture or video of your ornament and share via our Facebook page using **#artworksanywhere**. Then, you can keep your ornament as a remembrance of attending the “Hip Hop Nutcracker 2022” performance at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall.

Activity Sheets made possible through generous donors:

StarTech.com ▶ Sara Roberts Foundation ▶ Evalyn Sadlier Jones Foundation

NUTCRACKER FUN FACTS

- ▶ First performed in Russia in 1892
- ▶ Ballet music is written Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
- ▶ The Nutcracker and the Mouse King was written in 1816 by E.T.A Hoffman
- ▶ Major American ballet companies generate around 40% of their annual ticket revenues from performances of The Nutcracker
- ▶ The Washington Ballet does a production of the Nutcracker that is set in historic 1882 Georgetown with George Washington, King George III, and other historical figures
- ▶ In China, you may attend a version paying homage to the Chinese New Year, with the Crane Goddess usurping the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy and dragons taking over for the mice.
- ▶ Ballet Hawaii has paid respect to their indigenous people and culture with a Waltz of the Flowers that includes tropical flowers and relocating the snow scene to the top of Mauna Kea.

SYNOPSIS

To set the scene, a young girl named Clara is hosting a holiday party with her family, including her brother Fritz. Clara's Uncle Drosselmeyer, who is also her godfather, appears late to the party, but to the delight of the children brings gifts for them. He introduces entertainment for the guests including three windup dolls, a ballerina doll, a harlequin, and a soldier doll. He then presents Clara with a toy nutcracker which Fritz promptly breaks during a fit of jealousy. Uncle Drosselmeyer magically repairs the doll to Clara's delight.

Later that night, Clara looks for her toy under the Christmas tree. When she finds it, she begins to dream. Mice begin to fill the room and the Christmas tree begins to grow. The Nutcracker magically grows to life-size.



Enter the Mouse King, who the Nutcracker fights with swords. After the Nutcracker defeats the king, he transforms into a handsome prince. Clara travels with the prince to a place called the Land of the Sweets, where they encounter many new friends, including the Sugar Plum Fairy.

The friends entertain Clara and the prince with sweets from around the world including chocolate from Spain, coffee from Arabia, tea from China, and candy canes from Russia, which all dance for their amusement. Danish shepherdesses perform on their flutes, Mother Ginger and her children appear, a group of beautiful flowers perform a waltz and the Sugar Plum Fairy and her Cavalier perform a dance together.



HIP HOP TERMINOLOGY

B-Boy or B-Girl B-Boying/B-Girling represents the dance element of Hip Hop culture. B-boy is derived from "break boy". One of the most direct influences on B-boying may have been James Brown's 1969 hit "Get on the Good Foot." In film footage, James Brown does a dance called the Good Foot for the song. The Good Foot was a fast athletic and easily lent itself to dance battles between two opponents. Dancers who adapted the Good Foot style would dance in the "break" of a song.

Breakin' or Breakdancing A major genre of hip-hop dance that is highly energetic and utilizes complex and acrobatic moves, fancy and quick footwork, stylish poses called freezes, and the use of both hands and feet to propel the dancer on the dance floor. Usually highly improvisational, dancers (also called b-boys or b-girls) battle with each other

Choreography The sequence of steps and movements in dance.

Freestyle Dancing without choreography to be more self-expressive.

Groove Large, rhythmic dance moves performed using your entire body.

Improvisation A particular piece in drama or music that is being created spontaneously without preparation.

