

**VIST**

**Worksheet 5: *Dance***

**Background**

American roots music draws inspiration from many sources, blending songs with origins from around the world. Cajun is a blend of French lullabies and folk songs, black Creole music, dance tunes, and country music. In French-speaking, southwest Louisiana, a blend of Cajun music and the blues surfaced after World War II. Later, rhythm and blues entered the mix and the result was called zydeco. Tejano music evolved in Texas and the Southwest from Mexican dance and folk, American country, jazz, polka, and Cajun music. Each music style features the accordion.

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*Complete the following questions as you go through the section on **Dance**.*

1. What are some of the instruments, rhythms, and themes that bind together the music styles listed in this section?
2. Where might you hear each of these musical styles played today? Why do you think these styles retain such strong cultural connections to the communities in which they developed?
3. Compare and contrast these two styles of music by listening to the samples in the section and at the central listening station. What do they have in common? What makes them different?
4. Where did tejano and conjunto music develop? What musical styles were combined to form tejano music?
5. What are the differences in instruments used in polka and klezmer? Why are polka and klezmer often associated with celebratory occasions?
6. List all the instruments you found that were used in the *Dance* section of the exhibition:
7. Make notes here or on the back of this sheet about references to the recording of music or media development. Then go to the *Recording Roots Music* section of the exhibition. Write down all the different ways you can find that roots music was recorded. What role do you think recording has played in preserving American roots music and making it popular?