











Let's Dance

In this scene, we hear two Baroque dances. A minuet is a graceful precursor to the waltz in 3/4 time. A gigue is a faster dance in 6/8 time.

Find a book on 18th-century dress and show your students how ladies wore wide skirts padded out with "panniers" (baskets filled with straw) strapped to the hips under the dresses. How would this influence the dance? [Answers: there was more vertical movement than horizontal; people scarcely touched except with gloved hands.]

Every class can dance this simple minuet. Line up your students in two long rows, so that each child touches fingers with a partner. Now play Bach's minuet and dance as follows:

Beat	1	2	3	1	2	3
						
	Right foot	Left foot	Right foot	Point left toe and hold for three beats		
						
	Left foot	Right foot	Left foot	Point right toe and hold for three beats		

Variations

During the middle section (B) of Bach's minuet, vary the dance with these suggestions:

1. Face each other, step into center as before, with right-left-right and touch palms for the next bar.
2. Step back apart off left foot.
3. Six beats to pass on right, six beats to pass on left.
4. Bow and curtsy at the end.

