

Project work

The Nijemo Kolo (the Silent Circle dance) is practised by communities in the Dalmatian hinterland, in southern Croatia. Nijemo Kolo is performed in a closed circle with male dancers leading female partners in energetic, spontaneous steps – the male dancer publicly testing the skills of his female partner, seemingly without defined rules. The steps and figures, often vigorous and impressive, depend on the mood and desire of the participants. The defining feature of the silent circle dance is that it is performed exclusively without music, although vocal or instrumental performances may precede or follow the dance. Nijemo Kolo is traditionally performed at carnivals, fairs, feast days and weddings, and acts as a way for young women and men to meet and get to know each other.

Source <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/nijemo-kolo-silent-circle-dance-of-the-dalmatian-hinterland-00359>

Step 1. Get together in the groups of 3-4 people. Discuss the tasks that you have to perform, their order, and the division of work.

Step 2. Here are some additional questions that may help you work on the content of your presentation:



- What is the main difference between the Silent Circle dance and other traditional dances?
- What do the dancers wear?
- What part of Croatia does this dance originate from?
- What are the roles of male and female dancers?
- How did the dance change over the years?
- At what occasions is the dance performed today?

Step 3. Use some additional sources to develop your presentation. Here are some exemplary sources but you may search on your own as well:

<https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/nijemo-kolo-silent-circle-dance-of-the-dalmatian-hinterland-00359>

<https://www.total-croatia-news.com/item/14155-exploring-croatia-s-unesco-intangible-heritage-nijemo-kolo-silent-circle-dance-of-inland-dalmatia>

Step 4. Prepare a 10-minute long presentation on the topic. Have visual materials to support your arguments (photos and/or even video of the dance). We especially encourage you to try Prezi if you haven't had a chance before as it is a lot of fun and the effects are amazing!

Step 5. Present your outcome as a group in front of other students. Discuss your ideas together.