

Bricks Intensive Reading

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E-BOOK



MP3

Level

4

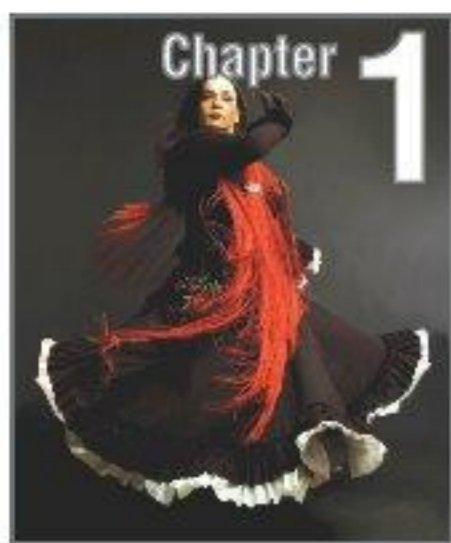
Chapter 1 > Unit 1 > Flamenco, Art of Passion Flamenco is a musical genre that developed in Andalusia, the southernmost and most populous of the seventeen autonomous provinces of Spain. It is a highly emotional and energetic art form, composed of three parts each distinct, yet, inherent to the whole. The first element is the hauntingly melodic song, or cante, sung in Spanish. The second element is baile, an impassioned and feverish form of dancing. The final part is guitarra, a vibrantly complex rendition of acoustic guitar play. For non-aficionados*, the dance may seem to be flamenco's main component. For

purists, however, it is the song that is the linchpin of flamenco. Flamenco songs originated during the late 15th century out of the severity of the brutal Spanish Inquisition*. With

Bricks Intensive Reading

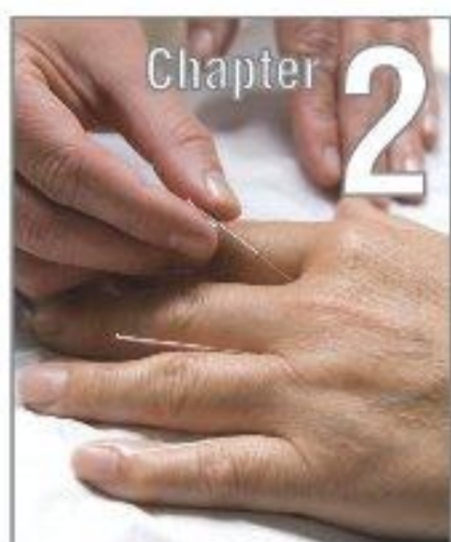
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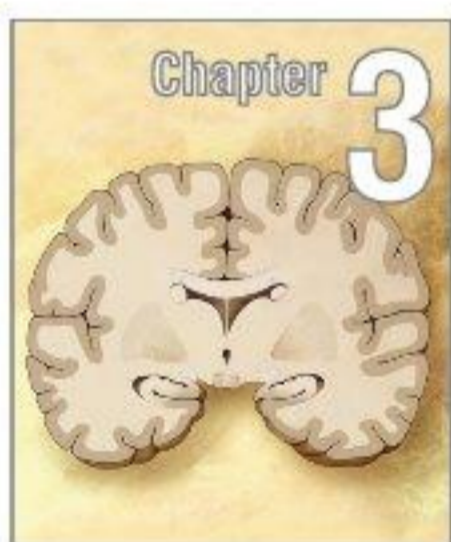
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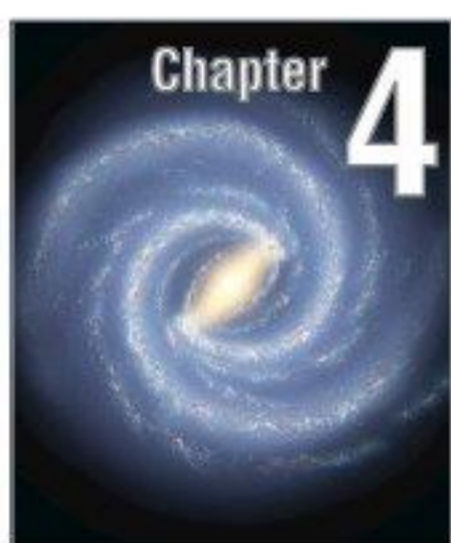
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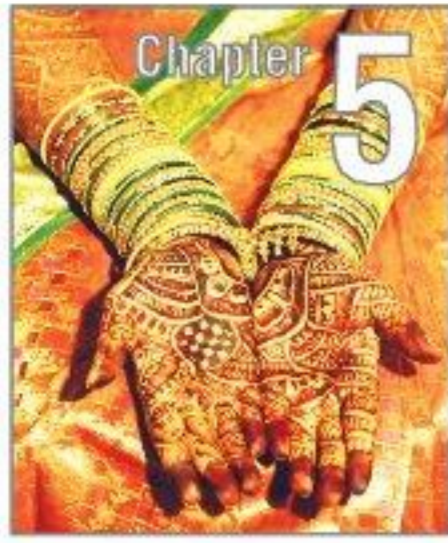
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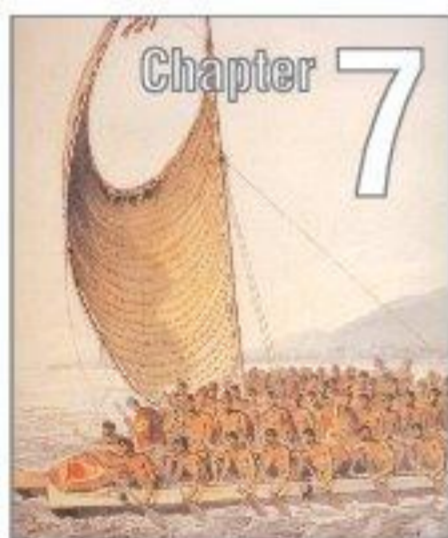
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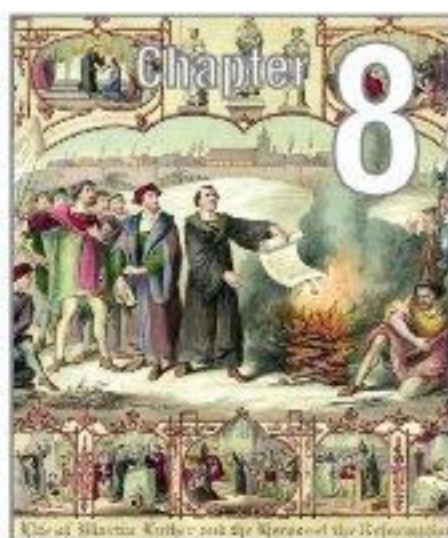
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Chapter

1

Culture

Art

Music

Unit 1

Flamenco, Art of Passion

Unit 2

**Cultural Theater of
Provocativeness**

Before You Study

Think about the questions below and share your opinions with your partners.



1

Can you name some popular forms of dance that are traditional to certain cultures?

Which is the most interesting to you?

2

Do you know where Flamenco originated from?

What image do you have when you think of Flamenco?

3

Have you ever seen a performance of a Japanese traditional theater?

If so, what makes the form of art unique?

Flamenco, Art of Passion

Word Bank

- **autonomous** *adj.* relating to self-government or independence –*syn.* independent
- **inherent** *adj.* existing in something as an essential characteristic or attribute
–*syn.* fundamental
- **feverish** *adj.* marked by having intense excitement
- **vibrantly** *adv.* with rapid, energetic movement or sound
- **rendition** *n.* a performance of an act or piece of music
- **purist** *n.* a person who practices precision
- **linchpin** *n.* something that holds the various components of a complex structure together
- **severity** *n.* a state of intense harshness –*syn.* cruelty
- **homogeneity** *n.* a state of being similar or comparable in kind or nature –*syn.* uniformity
- **decree** *n.* a formal and authoritative order having the force of law –*syn.* declaration
- **expulsion** *n.* a state of being expelled or forced out –*syn.* banishment
- **catharsis** *n.* a release of emotional tension, for example, through art or music
- **persecution** *n.* a systematic mistreatment or harassment of a group of people
- **profound** *adj.* being deeply immersed in thought or having deep insight or understanding
- **countless** *adj.* being too numerable or impossible to count –*syn.* innumerable
- **superstition** *n.* a belief not based on knowledge or the laws of nature
- **omen** *n.* a sign of something good or evil that may happen in the future
- **jovial** *adj.* characterized as being joyful and good humored –*syn.* merry, jolly
- **disquieting** *adj.* causing mental or emotional discomfort or uneasiness –*syn.* unsettling
- **commercialized** *adj.* prepared for the purpose of making profit –*syn.* marketable
- **fundamental** *adj.* being the most basic

A Complete the sentences using the words in the box with the appropriate form.

inherent	severity	expulsion	profound	commercialized
feverish	decree	persecution	disquieting	superstition

- Muslims are fleeing war and political _____ in their homelands by seeking refuge in other countries.
- Many sporting events have become more _____ as athletes and teams are being used for endorsing sports related products.
- The rising figures regarding teenagers' abuse of illegal drugs are certainly _____.
- Although gestures have _____ meaning, they are as arbitrary as any word in any language.
- Audiences in the concert hall showed _____ excitement, satisfying the singer of her performance.
- The movie critics commented that the new release was a thoughtful and _____ film.
- The National Congress, headquartered in Brazil, demands the _____ of landowners who are occupying lands in Bahia state.
- In some countries, building constructors often omit the 13th floor due to the _____ of 13 being an unlucky number.
- The _____ of the recession made people panic and even surprised the most pessimistic economists.
- Under emergency _____, the Prime Minister ordered the police to clear the facilities of all illegal occupants in the airport.

B Write the appropriate word in the blanks using the synonym clues.

- independent: _____
- merry, jolly: _____
- innumerable: _____

Flamenco, Art of Passion

READING STRATEGY

Comparing & Contrasting

Focus on the differences of flamenco songs from its time of development to the present day.

Skimming the Passage

Skim the passage to find what flamenco is and what the three parts of flamenco are.

NOTE

Flamenco is a musical genre that developed in Andalusia, the southernmost and most populous of the seventeen autonomous provinces of Spain. It is a highly emotional and energetic art form, composed of three parts; each distinct, yet, inherent to the whole. The first element is the **hauntingly** melodic song, or cante, sung in Spanish. The second element is baile, an impassioned and feverish form of dancing. The final part is guitarra, a vibrantly complex rendition of acoustic guitar playing. For non-aficionados^{*}, the dance may seem to be flamenco's main component. For purists, however, it is the song that is the linchpin of flamenco.

5

10

Flamenco songs originated during the late 15th century out of the severity of the brutal Spanish Inquisition^{*}. With the goal of restoring political and religious homogeneity in Spain, King Ferdinand V, a devout Catholic, issued a decree that forced Catholicism on all citizens. For those who were not Catholic, namely the Gypsy, Muslim, and Jewish populations, the consequences of not **converting** to Catholicism was punishment by expulsion or even death. As a catharsis from their persecution and oppression, these different groups brought their own influences and creativity into the songs of flamenco.

15

The earliest flamenco songs mirrored the cruel realities of life in Spain and were known as *cante jondo*, translated as “deep and profound song.” These songs usually involve a singer who is accompanied by a rhythmical hand clapping group called *toque de palmas*. The *cante jondo* was usually performed for small audiences made up of friends and family. One example of *cante jondo* is *Petenaras*, which tells the story of a beautiful young woman, who is overcome by jealousy and **rage**. Tragically, she dies at the hands of her lover. Over the years, this song has been performed countless times, bringing with it a superstition that many believe to be true. The song is believed to be a bad omen for the performers, some of whom have even died during its performance.

Flamenco songs went through an adaptive period during the early 20th century, a period known as the Golden Age of Flamenco. Songs were performed for larger audiences in cafés known as *café cantantes*. Instead of the traditional *cante jondo*, new lighter and jovial songs were developed in a style known as *cante chico*. Lighter subjects, such as love, humor, and happiness replaced the disquieting emotions found in *cante jondo*. As flamenco music became commercialized, **it**



lacked the feeling and emotion of early flamenco. Many purists considered this transitional stage to be an unfortunate period for flamenco songs. 40

As time passed, the new styles and developments in flamenco have changed, blended with traditional music, which are still considered to be a fundamental aspect of flamenco. Recently, flamenco songwriters have started to incorporate jazz as well as Latin and South American rhythms. The addition of congas, drums, keyboards, bass, flutes, and other instruments began to have a very powerful effect on the style the flamenco music was taking. As a result, these changes have brought about enjoyment and popularity of flamenco songs and dances for different classes of people. 45 50


Glossary

- * **aficionado** an enthusiastic admirer of something, such as sport, art, and music
- * **Spanish Inquisition** a tribunal of the Roman Catholic Church in Spain in 1542. Under this system, many people who were deemed to be heretics were tortured and executed. That system was finally suppressed in 1834.

Comprehension Check Up

A True or False

Write T if statements are true or F if statements are false according to the passage.

1. _____ Flamenco was originally for the nobles in Spain.
2. _____ Dance is the most important part of flamenco for purists.
3. _____ The earliest flamenco singers usually performed for small crowds.
4. _____ Flamenco music was developed by non-Catholic groups.
5. _____ Recently, traditional songs of flamenco music are mixed with new styles and developments.

B Synonym & Reference

Choose the best answers.

1. The word “**hauntingly**” in the first paragraph is closest in meaning to
 - a. frightfully
 - b. wholesomely
 - c. unforgettably
 - d. passionately
2. The word “**convincing**” in the second paragraph is closest in meaning to
 - a. changing one’s belief
 - b. discussing one’s belief
 - c. saying something is true
 - d. wanting something very much
3. The word “**rage**” in the third paragraph is closest in meaning to
 - a. pain
 - b. passion
 - c. pleasure
 - d. fury
4. The word “**it**” in the fourth paragraph refers to
 - a. lighter subjects
 - b. flamenco music
 - c. songs performed in cafés
 - d. a style

C Insight & Understanding**Choose the best answers.**

1. Which of the following is NOT one of the three essential components of flamenco?
 - a. song
 - b. dance
 - c. costume
 - d. guitar playing

2. According to the passage, when did flamenco songs first originate in Spain?
 - a. in the early 14th century
 - b. in the late 15th century
 - c. in the early 20th century
 - d. in the late 20th century

3. What can be inferred about Spain under the reign of King Ferdinand V?
 - a. Music, art, theater, and architecture prospered under the strong reign of King Ferdinand.
 - b. People who believed in Catholicism had to change their religion to Islam.
 - c. People did not have the right to choose their religion.
 - d. Life under the reign of King Ferdinand V was difficult for Catholics.

4. What is the third paragraph about?
 - a. It is about the earliest flamenco music.
 - b. It is about how flamenco developed.
 - c. It is about when flamenco songs were originated.
 - d. It is about how traditional flamenco songs changed into new style of flamenco music.

5. According to the passage, what is correct about the cante jondo?
 - a. It was inspired by toque de palmas.
 - b. It usually represented love, humor, and happiness.
 - c. It was performed for friends and family groups.
 - d. It was performed only by guitar and tambourine.

6. What happened to flamenco songs during the early 20th century?
 - a. Flamenco songs were loved by only enthusiasts.
 - b. Its style was drastically changed by incorporating various genres of music.
 - c. They became lighter and cheerful and they were performed for larger audiences.
 - d. The flamenco songs gradually faced its demise.

7. According to the passage, what is the difference between cante jondo and cante chico?
 - a. Cante chico was performed by Catholics while cante jondo was performed by non-Catholics.
 - b. Cante jondo expressed various feelings ranging from sorrow and sadness to love and humor while cante chico expressed only happiness.
 - c. Cante chico was considered a profound version of flamenco music while cante jondo was considered a light version of it.
 - d. Cante chico is lighter and cheerful while cante jondo is more deep and profound.

8. Which of the following CANNOT be inferred about flamenco songs today?
 - a. Most Catholics do not enjoy flamenco due to their religious belief.
 - b. There are many varieties of flamenco.
 - c. Flamenco songwriters are not averse about using different types of music instruments to mix with flamenco songs.
 - d. It is getting increased recognition in the world.

D Writing & Paraphrasing

Answer the following questions with complete sentences.

1. What is flamenco and what is it composed of?

2. Why did non-Catholics perform flamenco songs during the reign of King Ferdinand V?

3. What were the earliest flamenco songs known as and what is its meaning?

4. What is the superstition related to *Petenaras*?

5. Why did many purists consider the early 20th century as an unfortunate period for flamenco songs?

E Summary

Summarize the passage in your own words.

Grammar Plus

seem to

The expression “**seem to**” is used to suppose that something is true or probable. The expression “**seem to**” can be changed by using an “**It~that**” clause.

Combine the two sentences into one using the expression “seem to” as shown in the example.

ex. **It may seem that** the dance is flamenco’s main component.

→ The dance may **seem to** be flamenco’s main component.

1. It seems that the bridge is too dangerous to cross.

→

2. It seems that the financial crisis has caused millions of people to become unemployed.

→

3. Among these pictures, it seems that the third one is better than the other three.

→

Cultural Theater of Provocativeness

Word Bank

- **stylized** *adj.* using artistic forms and techniques to create effects
- **incorporate** *v.* to have or contain something as part of a whole
- **spectacular** *adj.* being impressive or exciting **–syn.** astounding, breathtaking
- **costume** *n.* things, such as clothing or accessories worn by performers during performances
- **ornate** *adj.* being elaborately styled or displayed
- **crude** *adj.* lacking tact or taste and being blunt or offensive **–syn.** obscene, vulgar
- **authority** *n.* a person or body of persons with legal power to make and carry out the law
–syn. government
- **provocative** *adj.* tending to provoke, excite, or stimulate; stimulating discussion or sexual desire
–syn. confrontational, offensive
- **genuine** *adj.* being true or having honest feelings or experiences
- **wandering** *adj.* walking around without a particular destination **–syn.** roaming
- **avenge** *v.* to inflict some form of punishment or penalty in return for **–syn.** revenge
- **despair** *n.* the feeling without hope or faith **–syn.** depression, anguish
- **stimulating** *adj.* being able to excite or heighten the feelings of the senses **–syn.** arousing
- **ethical** *adj.* pertaining to moral principles
- **futility** *n.* the characteristic trait of being useless
- **tragedy** *n.* an extremely sad or shocking situation; very sad or distressing outcome
- **immovable** *adj.* being unable to be moved or changed **–syn.** fixed, permanent
- **elemental** *adj.* relating to fundamental or basic principles
- **aftermath** *n.* something that results from or follows an event **–syn.** outcome
- **innovative** *adj.* tending to create something new or change into something different from the norm