



Nataraja  
**SHIVA AS LORD  
OF THE DANCE**

**Artwork Lesson**

art class  
**CURATOR**

# This is an adaptable, full lesson on *Shiva, Lord of the Dance*


This is a full lesson on *Shiva as Lord of the Dance (Nataraja)* from the culture of India (Tamil Nadu). Students will engage and connect with this artwork through kinesthetic activities, discussion, and more!

**FILES IN THIS LESSON  
INCLUDE:**

- PowerPoint
- Lesson Plan

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Describe the sculpture. What is going on?
- Who is this? What is he doing? What story is being told here?
- How can you tell a story through dance or choreography?
- What is Shiva standing on?
- Why do you think he is standing on it?
- Describe the lines and shapes that you see.
- Why did the artist choose to show these symbols?
- How does this artwork make you feel?
- How can you connect this artwork to your own life?
- Discuss "The dance the smiling Shiva is performing is the Tandava, the cosmic dance which both creates and destroys the universe." from the Ancient History Encyclopedia.



12th-early 13th century

**ARTWORK**

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# Invite Your Students to Explore An Engaging Artwork BENEATH THE SURFACE

Our ARTWORK OF THE WEEK Lessons equip you to teach a complete art experience for your students with:

- artwork discussion questions
- learning activities
- writing worksheets
  - project ideas
  - and more!

Depending on class length and the number of activities you choose, an Artwork of the Week lesson can last for one class period or be extended throughout a full week.

