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TEACHING TUESDAY

YOSAKOI

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Yosakoi is a style of dance that is unique to Japan. Originating in Koichi, on the island of Shikoku, in 1954 as a modern version of the Awa Odori, a traditional summer dance, the Yosakoi has spread throughout much of Japan.

The Awa Odori is a custom dance of Obon, and has a strictly established set of moves that have been in place for hundreds of years. Yosakoi's recent arrival and modern dance style means there are much fewer rules, and participants include men and women of all ages and nationalities.

Yosakoi is performed in teams, combining traditional Japanese dance movements with modern music in a highly energetic style. Dancers often wear brightly colored outfits and make-up, and use small wooden clappers known as naruko. With over 200 yosakoi festivals and competitions in Japan, yosakoi became a great way to make traditional dances popular again in Japan.