

FOLK DANCES OF INDIA
JHORA DANCE



Jhora is a community dance that is highly popular in Uttarakhand. The dance originated in the region of Kumaon. This folk dance is generally performed during the spring season. The dance is performed by the local people moving around in circles.

Besides the spring season, the Johra folk dance is usually performed in the evening at weddings or fairs conducted by the town or village. The dance unites people. It aims to break caste barriers. All communities, both higher and lower caste come together to perform this folk dance.

Dance Performance-

The dance is performed in the evening and morning. Irrespective of their community, people dance in groups. Men and women move in circles holding each other's arms and dance with utmost grace. The dance steps are unique in Jhora dance. The dancers bend their bodies smoothly and sway their bodies with every beat starting from left to right. On hearing the first beat of the *Hurka* (traditional drum), the dancers take their right leg up and cross the left leg, then strike the right leg on the floor. Then on the second beat, the dancers throw their left leg sideways accompanying it with a slight jump, polished with a little dip and the performers return to their original standing pose, with the bodies swaying slightly to the back. The third and fourth steps are

given to the right and left foot respectively. Each and every step is accompanied by small and smooth jumps and neck movements. This completes one cycle. Whenever the dance circle is big enough, the musician plays the *Hurka*



with some cymbals and flute in the middle of the circle spontaneously.

The song in the dance performance is quite unique as well. The songs are much more like a conversation between men and women. There is no restriction on the number of people who can participate in the dance and the numbers can swell from 20 to 200 at times. The dance performance can also go on for about 24 hours as well. With time, new dancers keep joining the dance performance and therefore with this

continuous joining process, the dance is able to go on for a long period of time. Sometimes when people are very enthusiastic and energetic , they perform with two storeys the famous *Do Manjila Jhora*.

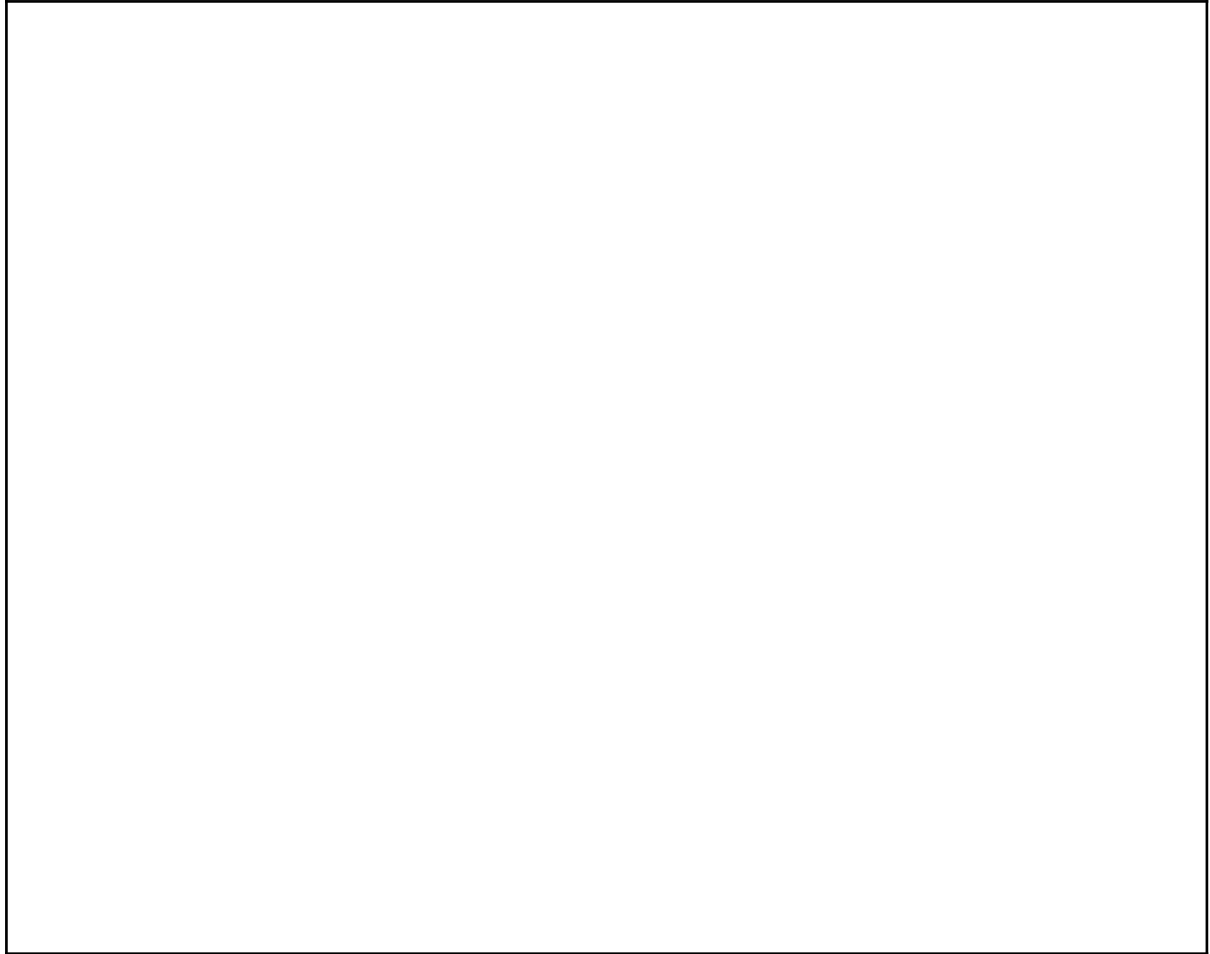
Costumes-

Like all folk dances, costumes are a critical part of the performance. The men and women are dressed in their glamorous best. The women adorn themselves traditional ornaments like bangles, necklaces and earrings etc.

Activity-

1. Identify the following musical instruments.





Reference-

<https://www.euttaranchal.com/culture/folk-songs-and-dances-of-uttarakhand.php>

<https://www.indianetzone.com/56/jhora.htm>

<https://www.auchitya.com/jhora-dance-of-uttrakhand/>