

## 1. Teach a phrase or series of motifs from the DVD to use as a basis for individual work and work in pairs

Example: Texan Kangaroo Rat – five core motifs

- Watch the whole section. Discuss style and point out that it is made up of a limited number of motifs, but that each one is varied and developed by changing the rhythms or counts, the direction, number of repetitions, by adding jumps or turns and other actions.
- Identify from the video five motifs and teach them to the whole class. Three possible ideas are outlined below.

Motif 1: 'Dig side-shuffle' – two 16-count phrases

Count	Movement
1	Open to turned-out second position, hands in fists; push hands down to floor in front of body.
2	Turn toes in to turned-in second position, shifting to the right; pull fists up to chest, elbows bent outwards to side.
3–4	Repeat first two counts.
5	Right-foot turns out as left leg is picked up to side of body, bent at knee; fists dig down to floor.
6	Return left foot to floor, turned in and bring fists up to chest.
7–8	Repeat 1 and 2, but shifting back to left, not right.
1–8	Repeat 1–8 above in opposite direction with opposite leg.

Motif 2: 'Toe-brush' – one eight-count phrase (see photo on p.73)

Count	Movement
1–3	Three hops on left leg, circling right leg forwards, down and up, foot flexed; upper torso leaning forwards with arms swinging loosely from shoulders, forward, back forward.
4	Step right, step left
5–7	Step on right foot, ready to circle left leg three times, as right leg in 1–3.
8	Step left, step right

Motif 3: Backwards zigzag, slapping thigh – 4 counts of 4

Count	Movement
1–7	Stand still, feel in parallel, facing down-stage left diagonal.
8	Sharply lift knee, dropping weight onto bent left leg and slapping palm of left hand onto right thigh; stretch right arm away behind body.
1	Holding slightly twisted body position, take small step back on right leg.
2	Step left leg behind, dropping weight heavily onto it; lift right knee and slap thigh with left hand again.
3–6	Repeat 1 and 2 twice.
7	Hop again on left leg, slapping right thigh; rotate body to face other down-stage diagonal.
8	Repeat 8 above.
1–8	Repeat above up to three times, each time alternating left and right, to trace a zigzag backwards up the stage.

### Using the motifs

- Give each motif a number and a summary name (e.g. sliding star jumps). Write numbers and corresponding names on whiteboard.
- Ask students to write the numbers one to five in any order on a piece of paper; swap papers with a partner. This is now the order in which the motifs must be linked in sequence. Encourage students to be imaginative with links between each section and to make motifs more distinctive by playing with rhythm, direction, level and pathway.
- Create an additional sixth motif, either imitating the style or using another distinctive phrase in the dance. Add to the sequence.
- Choreograph the solo as a duo with a partner – simply perform alongside to start with but be aware of coincidental relationships. Firm these up; add a moment of unison and one of canon; add stillness in appropriate places to highlight moves in each solo.

