

## Edgar Degas's Ballerinas

Nina Ballerina loved Edgar Degas's painting called "The Blue Dancers" that she saw at the art museum. She was excited to learn that Degas painted many pictures of ballerinas.

Degas was born in Paris, France, in 1834. His family was very interested in music and theater. When Degas was 18, the family made an art studio for him in one room of their house. He first began to copy paintings of artists that he saw in the Louvre, a famous museum. After moving his studio to another location in Paris, he painted portraits and pictures related to history. He also painted lots of acrobats, singers, musicians and ballerinas.

Nina Ballerina showed the music friends another painting by Degas called "The Dance Class." She reminded them that dancers take lessons just like pianists and artists do.

How many ballerinas can you count in Degas's painting, "The Dance Class"?



The Dance Class  
Edgar Degas  
1874-1877, oil on  
canvas, 20 1/2 x 26 1/2 inches

