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Cover: Breton Girls, Dancing, Pont Aven, by Paul GAUGUIN (Copyright, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; Collection of Mr and Mrs Paul Mellon). Gauguin was a French Symbolist and lived from 1848 to 1903. Gauguin traveled the world as a seaman and pursued a career in banking in Paris and Copenhagen before concentrating on his skills as a painter and sculptor. He was determined to develop a new approach to painting through which to symbolically express a thought or mood, in contrast to the impressionist approach which sought to reproduce a scene through the exact recording of every nuance of color and light. Completed in 1888, Breton Girls Dancing, Pont Aven is one of Gauguin’s earliest works in this new style. The themes of friendship, community, exercise, and appreciation of nature depicted here are important elements in the total health and development of every child.
