

BRAZIL

FINDING OUT ABOUT THE COUNTRY AND ITS CULTURE

Background

Brazil has a population of over 190 million people! Brazil was settled by Europeans (from Portugal, Spain and Italy) and also many African people. All of these many different people have influenced the culture and traditions of Brazil - it is a very complex culture. Almost everyone in Cuba speaks Spanish.

CULTURE IN BRAZIL

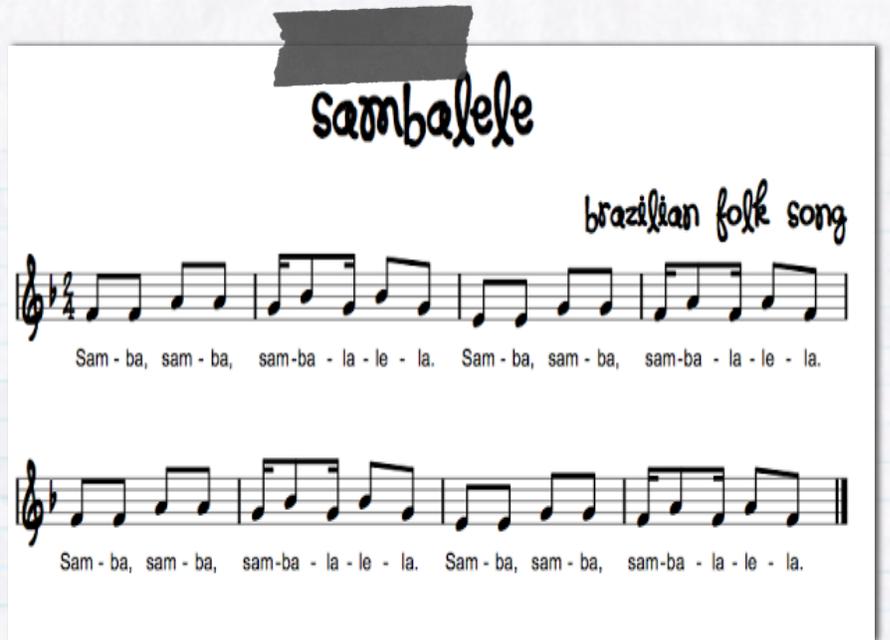
Music, song and dance are a VERY important part of Brazilian identity. As different people from Portugal, Africa and local tribes travelled in Brazil, a unique style of music developed. The Samba is a well known Brazilian music style.

CELEBRATIONS IN BRAZIL

One of the most famous celebrations in Brazil is the tradition of Carnival. Carnival is a huge street party with Colourful costumes, dancing. Another important tradition is Festa Junina which celebrates John the Baptist who is a saint in the Roman Catholic church. Men and women dress up as farm boys and girls and dance to celebrate rural life.

sambalele

brazilian folk song



Brazilian Folk Music

The song Sambalele is a traditional Brazilian folk song.

This is a children's song and it is usually sung in a circle and includes movements that children will do while they sing.

The movements in the song describe a boy called Sambalele, who falls in love with a beautiful brown haired girl (even though he has fallen and bumped his head!)



FOOD As people in Brazil come from many different places the food is very interesting. Mangoes, papayas, and Guavas are common and many dishes use rice or beans. Lunch is the main meal of the day and there is also plenty of seafood.



CUSTOMS: it is seen as bad luck to give anyone a gift that is black or purple.



CUSTOMS: it is considered very rude to interrupt someone who is talking in Brazil.

You might hear these instruments used in a Samba band



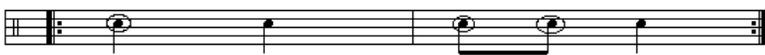
SAMBA IN BRAZIL

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Samba is a dance which developed in Brazil. It is a **mixture of** African rhythms and beats.

The main sound in samba is the many percussion instruments. **Rhythm** is the most important part of samba. Here are some common rhythms that you might hear different percussion instruments play in Samba:

Tamborim



Surdo



Agogo



1. Agogo bell
2. Tamborim (a small drum)
3. Snare drum
4. shakers
5. Surdo (a big bass drum)
6. whistle (apito)
7. Singers
8. trombones
9. guitars

HOW ARE THE INSTRUMENTS USED?

The surdo gives a regular beat.

The agogos and snare drums play a repeating rhythm.

The tambourin plays interesting and sometimes complex rhythms.

A whistle calls out rhythms to the musicians and tells dancers when a different section of the music begins.

You will also hear trombone sections in the music and singing.

SAMBA DANCING

The samba dance was created by the African settlers and slaves who came to Brazil. At first the dance was only allowed to be performed in private because the wealthy people in Brazil thought that it was improper. Nowadays, it is a very popular dance and is performed all over Brazil : at parties, during carnival, and at other celebrations.



CUBA

FINDING OUT ABOUT THE COUNTRY AND ITS CULTURE

Background

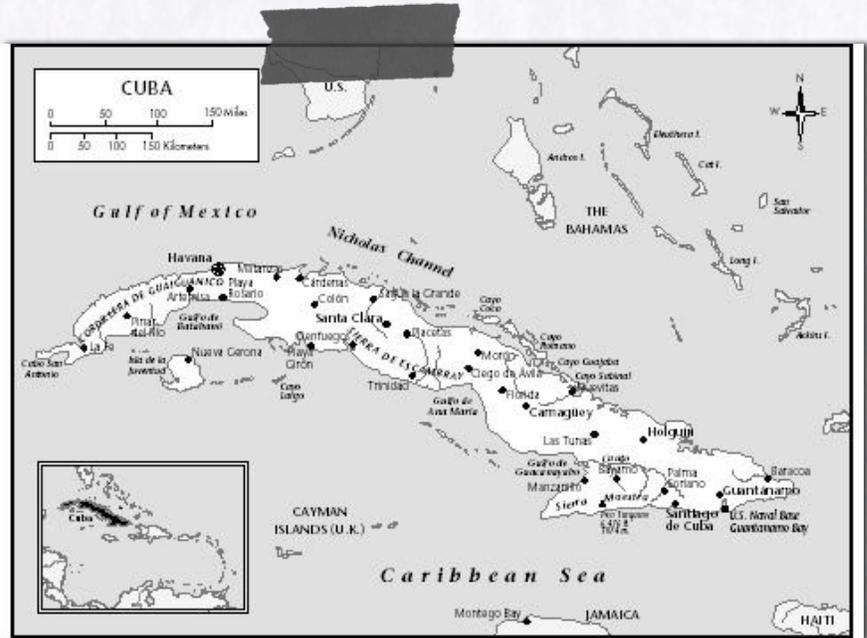
Cuba has a population of around 11 million people. Around half of these people are from a mixed European and African descent. This mixture has influenced the cultures and traditions of Cuba. Almost everyone in Cuba speaks Spanish.

CULTURE IN CUBA

African music and dance has had a very big influence on the Arts in Cuba. African rhythms have been inserted into popular music in Cuba - you can see some of these rhythms on the next page.

CELEBRATIONS IN CUBA

One of the most famous celebrations in Cuba is the tradition of Carnival. Carnival is a huge street party with Colourful costumes, dancing



Where is Cuba?

Cuba is a small island that has warm weather the whole year. Cuba is above South America and below the United States. Lots of tourist like to come here for the beautiful scenery and fantastic music.



continued on page 2



FOOD Most people in Cuba eat simple foods like rice and beans. They will eat these with vegetables like cucumbers. Beef is eaten very often. Cuba also grows a lot of sugar cane which is sold overseas.



CUSTOMS: Ac augue donec, sed gravida a dolor luctus, congue arcu id diam praesent, pretium ac, ullamcorper ipsum lorem non hac in quisque hac.



CUSTOMS: molestie pede lorem eu. Posuere tempus porttitor odio urna et gravida, hasellus sed sit sodales laoreet integer, in, at, leo nam in.

You might hear these instruments used in Salsa



SALSA IN CUBA



Salsa is a dance which developed in Cuba. It is a **mixture of** Cuban, Puerto Rican and American **jazz** and **rock** music and its name means 'sauce'.

The main influence on salsa is Cuban music. **Rhythm** is the most important factor in **salsa**, and this style of music combines a different rhythms These rhythms lock together and make a complex and exciting pattern. Underpinning the whole thing is the son clave rhythm of 3+2 or 2+3, as shown below:



Salsa has a simple **harmony** (listen for the lower bass sounds). A piece of salsa music will usually have a **call and response** structure and **improvised** sections.

1. Claves
2. Congas
3. Bongos
4. Timbales
5. Piano
6. Vocals
7. Brass instruments
8. Saxophones
9. cow bells

HOW ARE THE INSTRUMENTS USED?

The Claves provide a regular rhythm.

The Bongos and congas also play this steady rhythm.

The timbales accent certain beats.

A piano part plays chords and lots of octaves.

You will also hear brass sections in the music and singing.

SALSA DANCING

Salsa is normally danced in ballrooms, festivals, and restaurants in Cuba and other parts of the world like New York and South America. If you watch dancers performing the salsa you will notice that their upper bodies will remain still and level while their hips and feet move from side to side.



MEXICO

FINDING OUT ABOUT THE COUNTRY AND ITS CULTURE

Background

Around 105 million people live in Mexico. Many people descend from Native American Indians and parts of Spain. The many different traditional music styles show how the Mexican culture is very diverse.

CULTURE IN MEXICO

The extended family is one of the most important parts of Mexican culture. Mexican people are responsible for helping their family members find jobs and even buy houses. Some of the different music styles in Mexico include Mariachi bands, Banda and Corridos.

CELEBRATIONS IN MEXICO

There are lots of celebrations in Mexico. 'Cinco de Mayo' is a holiday celebrating Mexico's independence from Spain. Towns celebrate with street food, dancing, music and mariachi bands.

'Dias de los Muertos' is a celebration of life and death. People dress up to honour the spirits of their family members. There is lots of music and many feasts.



Al Citron

Mexican rock passing song
(nonsense words)

All sit in circle, cross-legged.

X = pass stone to the right (place in front of person on the right)

↑ = pick up stone in front of you

* = last 3 beats: keep holding on to the same stone, but move hand, in the same motions as before: R - in front of person to the right; Center - in front of self, then R again.

Mexican Folk Songs

This circle song game is either played with stones or cups.

You might see this song being played by children your age at a school playground in Mexico.

It is meant to be a fun game - what do you think children learn through playing this musical game?



FOOD Mexican food is well known for its intense flavours and spices. Foods like maize, avocado, chill peppers, and sweet potatoes are eaten with meats like chicken. You may have heard of popular dishes like tacos, burritos, enchiladas and mole (a type of sauce).



CUSTOMS: when women greet each other in public, they will often pat each other on the right forearm instead of shaking hands.



CUSTOMS: if you are invited to someone's house for dinner you are expected to arrive 30 minutes late (it is rude to arrive on time!)

You might hear these instruments used in Mexico



MUSIC IN MEXICO



There are hundreds of Spanish folk songs from Mexico. The lyrics from the songs talk about lots of different things that are important to Mexican culture (like food, traditions, myths, religion, and celebrations).

The main influences of Mexican folk music is the music of Spain and also the music of the Native American Indians. Some different styles of Mexican music are:

Corrido is a popular type of narrative (or story) song. The lyrics of corrido songs are often old legends about heroes, love stories, or rural areas of Mexico. LA Cucaracha

Mariachi is another type of folk music from Mexico. It is a band of guitarists or string instrument players, with a violin player and trumpets. They dress in white pants and usually sing songs while they play. They almost always play at celebrations and festivals in Mexico.

1. Guitar
2. maracas
3. harp
4. Vihuela
5. Violin
6. Vocals

HOW ARE THE INSTRUMENTS USED?

Guitars of different sizes are very important in the Mariachi bands

The Vihuela is a type of guitar that plays the rhythm.

The harps accompanies the music.

You will also hears lots of singing.



CHILE

FINDING OUT ABOUT THE COUNTRY AND ITS CULTURE

Background

Around 15 million people live in Chile. Most people are from European and native Chilean backgrounds - because most people share the same background the culture is very strong and unique to Chile.

CULTURE IN CHILE

Almost everyone in Chile lives with their close family. Marriage is a very important part of growing up in Chile, and even though weddings are not large or expensive, they are seen as very big events.

CELEBRATIONS IN CHILE

There are lots of celebrations in Chile. The Grape harvest festival is every summer and there are parades and grapes are squashed at the vineyards.

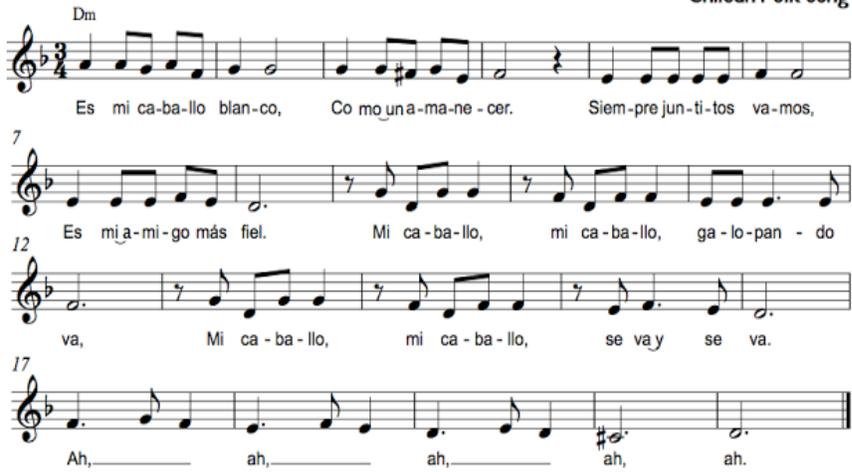
The Fiesta Patrias takes place in September. The people in Chile celebrate spring by dancing the Cueca and eating food like empanadas. There are also hopscotch competitions.

The native people of Chile celebrate New Year in June at the beginning of winter.



Mi caballo blanco

Chilean Folk song



Es mi ca-ba-llo blan-co, Co mo una-ma-ne- cer. Siem-pre jun-ti-tos va-mos,
 7 Es mi a-mi-go más fiel. Mi ca-ba-llo, mi ca-ba-llo, ga-lo-pan-do
 12 va, Mi ca-ba-llo, mi ca-ba-llo, se va y se va.
 17 Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah.

Chilean Folk Songs

Chilean folk music is quite popular. One of the most famous folk musicians has been Violeta Parra. Her music influenced many young Chilean musicians making music today.

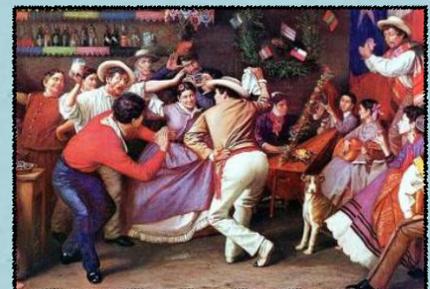
The song above is a traditional folk song about a horse and his owner and how they go riding together.



FOOD Food is very special in Chile and most people eat four times a day. Lunch is the main meal - usually a salad and a meat dish. At around 5pm families eat 'once' (like afternoon tea with bread, jam and cheeses). Around 9pm is dinner time which is usually a light meal.



CUSTOMS: It is considered very bad manners to talk too loudly at restaurants.



CUSTOMS: if you are invited out you are expected to arrive on time. It is polite to be a little late but never early.

You might hear these instruments used in Chile



El tortillero Chilean folk song

No che o-scu-ra, na-da ve-o, pe-ro lle-vo mi fa-rol;
Por tus puer-tas voy pa-san-do y can-tan-do con a-mor.
Mas voy can-tan-do con har-ta pe-na Quién
com pra mis tos-ta-i-tas, Tor-ti-las bue-nas?

1. Guitar
2. Harp
3. piano
4. accordion
5. tambourine
6. hand clapping
7. vocals
8. Charango
9. cow bells

MUSIC IN CHILE



The most important style of music in Chile is called 'NUEVA CANCION'. This means new song. The type of music has lots of guitar of other traditional instruments. There are lyrics that accompany the music. Many of the words of the songs talk about the beauty of rural life.

Chile's national dance is the CUECA. The movements of the dance tells the story of a man who tries to pursue a woman who hides behind her handkerchief. The dance is performed at almost every important festival in Chile. Dancers dress in traditional costumes and wave white handkerchiefs in the air.



HOW ARE THE INSTRUMENTS USED?

The audience claps along with the beat.

The charango is like the guitar but it has 10 strings and the bass of it is made from armadillo shell!

Harps, pianos and accordions accompany the melody.

A singer or singers have the melody.

The guitar is used in a rhythmic way.

Finding out about _____



Language:

Population:

Music styles:

Customs:

Celebrations:

MUSIC FROM _____

Write down what you have found out below:

FACTS

Instruments

List important instruments below
