

AFRICA



Fast Facts

The three countries of western Africa covered in this unit are Ghana, Togo and Nigeria. The official language of Ghana and Nigeria is English, although *Ewe (EH-way)*, a tribal language of western Africa, is common to both countries. The official language of Togo is French.

Africa is the world's second-largest continent. Only Asia is larger. The largest arid area in the world at nearly three million square miles, the Sahara Desert covers about 25% of Africa. A large part of central Africa is tropical rainforest.

The Instruments and Rhythms of Africa

If possible, have your students practice the following music examples with the CD using suitable percussion instruments (cowbell, conga drums, bongos, etc.) or by clapping.

Hemiola

Changing the natural accents of a time signature to make it sound like a different time signature.



Two musical staves in 3/4 time. The first staff shows a sequence of six quarter notes with accents on the first and fourth notes. The second staff shows the same sequence of notes but with a bracket labeled "Hemiola" over the first three notes, indicating a change in the perceived time signature.

“Two against three” Two pulses per measure *and* three pulses per measure played at the same time.



Two musical staves in 3/4 time. The top staff is labeled "Bell" and shows a sequence of six quarter notes with accents on the first and fourth notes. Below it is the count: "Count: 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 2 & 3 &". The bottom staff is labeled "Drum" and shows a sequence of six quarter notes with accents on the first and fourth notes. Below it is the count: "Count: 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3".

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Resultant Rhythm The rhythm that emerges when two (or more) different rhythms are played together.



Bell

Count: 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 & 2 & 3 &

Drum

Count: 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 3

Resultant

Additive Rhythms Combinations of two and three pulses grouped together.



Bell

Count: 1 2 1 2 1 2 3 1 2 1 2 3

Drum 1

Count: 1 2 3 1 2 3 1 2 1 2 1 2

Rhythms of the World for 100—Cuba



True/False (5 points each)

1. A *cha-cha-chá* is always faster and more intense than salsa music. (F)
2. The Cuban *clave rhythm* is a repetitive two-measure pattern. (T)
3. Cuban *salsa* is based upon the *cha-cha-chá*. (F)
4. *Montuno* is a repeating piano pattern. (T)
5. The bassoon is often heard in Cuban music. (F)
6. You can expect to hear brass instruments in *salsa* music. (T)
7. *Timbales* are drums used in Cuban music. (T)
8. A timpani is a percussion instrument used in Cuban music. (F)
9. Cuba is an island off the coast of California in the Pacific Ocean. (F)
10. A *guiro* is a percussion instrument used in the Cuban *cha-cha-chá*. (T)
11. Arturo Sandoval is a famous Cuban musician. (T)
12. *Clave* may refer to a percussion instrument or a specific Cuban rhythm pattern. (T)
13. A *guiro* is a string instrument played with a bow. (F)
14. *Timbales* are rarely heard in Cuban music. (F)
15. The people of Cuba only listen to *salsa* music. (F)
16. The official language of Cuba is Cuban. (F)
17. Cuba is a democratic society. (F)
18. Cuban music was not influenced by African music. (F)
19. Less than 1 million people live in Cuba. (F)
20. The brass section of a *salsa* band would probably include trumpets and trombones. (T)
21. Spanish is the official language of Cuba. (T)
22. *Salsa* is no longer a popular style of music in Cuba. (F)
23. *Timbales* are usually made of wood. (F)
24. A *timbale* player often uses one or more cowbells in addition to their drums. (T)
25. Most *salsas* do not include vocalists. (F)
26. In Cuban music, the *clave rhythm* is always played on the *claves*. (F)
27. The *salsa* is a specific music style and has a specific dance style to match the music. (T)
28. *Son montuno* is a style of Cuban music from the mid 1800s that combined Spanish dance and instruments with African-influenced rhythms. (T)
29. Disco continues to be a popular music style in Cuba. (F)
30. In the 1950s and 60s, the *boogaloo* combined elements of rock, jazz and blues with traditional Cuban music styles. (T)



Questions for Discussion

1. Can you think of other composers or artists who developed new styles of music? (i.e. Beethoven, Elvis, the Beatles)
2. What other events (in government, sports, music, TV, movies, etc.) were happening in the world during 1963 and 1964, when “The Girl From Ipanema” was a chart-topping hit? (1963 – Martin Luther King, Jr. gives his “I Have A Dream” speech; President Kennedy is assassinated; NASA launches the last of the Mercury series rockets; Pro Football Hall of Fame names its first inductees; the LA Dodgers beat the NY Yankees in the World Series; Michael Jordan is born; the Beatles tape ten songs for their first album. 1964 – The first Ford Mustang rolls off the assembly line; IBM announces the System/360; President Lyndon Johnson and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev announce plans to cut back production of materials for making nuclear weapons; the Summer Olympic Games are held in Tokyo, Japan; Barry Bonds is born; the Beatles appear on the Ed Sullivan show.)
3. Do you think Portuguese is the official language of all the countries of South America? If not, what language might be?
4. What is a “Grammy” award? (A Grammy is the music industry’s highest honor. The Grammy awards are presented to performers, songwriters and producers each year for outstanding achievement in their genre of music.)
5. Do you think African music influenced the music of Brazil? Why?

Music Examples

Samba

Listen carefully as each layer is added to create this *samba*. Have your students keep a steady beat by clapping or playing suitable percussion instruments like *claves*, cowbell or maracas.

Typical rhythm section parts

The musical score consists of five staves, each representing a different instrument in a Samba rhythm section. The time signature is 2/4. The instruments and their parts are:

- Shaker:** A steady, rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.
- Tambourine:** A pattern of eighth notes with accents, creating a syncopated feel.
- Agogo Bells/Congas:** A pattern of eighth notes with accents, similar to the tambourine but with a different rhythmic feel.
- Bass:** A pattern of eighth notes with accents, providing a steady bass line.
- Piano:** A complex pattern of eighth notes and chords, providing harmonic support.