



Smithsonian Folkways

Music of Cuba & the Caribbean

A Smithsonian Folkways Lesson

Designed by: Roberta L. Stafford
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Summary:

Students will learn and perform the songs “Guantanamera,” and “Caribbean Carnival” with improvisation. Listening, analyzing and comparing traditional songs from Cuba and the Caribbean will allow students a window into the culture of these countries.

Suggested Grade Levels: 3-5

Country: Cuba

Region: Caribbean

Culture Group: Cuban, Caribbean

Genre: Cuban Son

Instruments: Voice, Band

Language: Spanish

Co-Curricular Areas: Social Studies, Spanish

National Standards: 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8

Prerequisites: Students are receiving weekly group instruction (band lessons).

Objectives:

- Listen to recordings of “Guantanamera” and “Soneros Son”
- Locate Cuba on a world map
- Rehearse Concert Band arrangements of “Guantanamera” and “Caribbean Carnival” in weekly Band rehearsals

Materials:

- Smithsonian Folkways, “Guantanamera” by Grupo Moncada from *Grupo Moncada Recorded Live in Boston* (CAT. #MON00798)
<http://www.folkways.si.edu/grupo-moncada/recorded-live-in-boston/latin-world/music/album/smithsonian>
- Smithsonian Folkways, “Soneros Son” by Estudiantina Invasora from *Music of Cuba* (CAT. #FW04064)
<http://www.folkways.si.edu/music-of-cuba/caribbean-latin-world/album/smithsonian>

Concert Band Arrangement of “Guantanamera,” arranged by Victor Lopez, Alfred Publishing/Belwin Division. Level: Very Easy.

Lesson Segments:

1. **Guantanamera** (National Standards 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8)
2. **Music of the Caribbean** (National Standards 2, 5, 6, 7, 8)

1. Guantanamera

- **Prerequisite:** Students are receiving weekly group instruction (band lessons)
- **Objectives:**
 - Listen to a recording of “Guantanamera”
 - Discuss the lyrics of “Guantanamera”
 - Locate Cuba on a world map
 - Rehearse a Concert Band arrangement of “Guantanamera” in weekly band rehearsals
 - Improvise over the rhythmic riff in the concert band arrangement of “Guantanamera.”
- **Materials:**
 - Smithsonian Folkways, “Guantanamera” by Grupo Moncada from *Grupo Moncada Recorded Live in Boston* (CAT. #MON00798)
<http://www.folkways.si.edu/grupo-moncada/recorded-live-in-boston/latin-world/music/album/smithsonian>
- **Procedure:**
 - a. Listen to the recording (in lessons).
 - b. Discuss translation of “Guantanamera” – woman from Guantanamo.
 - c. Students will locate Guantanamo, Cuba on a world map.
 - d. Rehearse concert band arrangement in weekly band rehearsals.
 - e. Introduce simple improvisation over the rhythmic riff in the arrangement using call and response (lessons and band rehearsals).

Assessment: Students will perform the concert band arrangement of “Guantanamera” at the Spring Concert.

2. Music of the Caribbean

- **Prerequisite:** Students are receiving weekly group instruction (band lessons)
- **Objectives:**
 - Listen to an authentic recording of “Mazurka,” an authentic example of Caribbean folk music
 - Locate the Caribbean on a world map
 - Rehearse a Concert Band arrangement of “Caribbean Carnival” in weekly Band rehearsals

- **Materials:**
 - Smithsonian Folkways, “Mazurka” by Various Artists from *Caribbean Folk Music, Vol. 1* (CAT. #FW04533)
<http://www.folkways.si.edu/caribbean-folk-music-vol-1/world/album/smithsonian>
 - Concert Band arrangement of “Caribbean Carnival,” by David Bobrowitz, Grand Mesa Music, Level “Easy.”

- **Procedure:**
 - a. Listen to the recording (in lessons).
 - b. Students will locate the Caribbean on a world map.
 - c. Rehearse Concert Band arrangement in weekly rehearsals.

Assessment: Students will perform a concert band arrangement of “Caribbean Carnival”.