

Santa's Samba - Teacher Guide

**Hello - ho - ho - ho everyone!
And welcome to Santa Samba 2020**

We are going to learn a samba reggae groove and play along with Feliz Navidad by Jose Feliciano.

To join in you will need only a few basic percussion instruments or household items to shake and hit. If your school has samba instruments and you have experience of leading a samba percussion group, you can jump to the second part of this guide.

Part 1 - Instant Samba Lesson

This is a rhythm lesson and fun activity you can try with your pupils in your classroom. It is suitable for children in P3-7, although you might choose to break down the teaching into 2 or 3 sessions for younger classes.

Resources:

- Smartboard
 - A loud speaker or amp. If your smartboard speakers are too quiet to be heard over your class, you could connect a separate amplifier or bluetooth speaker.
 - Instruments - these could include objects from your classroom such as desks and plastic boxes or buckets. You could use body percussion or any suitable percussion instruments your school has.
1. Watch Santa Samba part 1 and practise clapping the different rhythm patterns together. Learn the 'Groove Rhythms' first. Discuss which sounds work best for each part.
 2. Once the class is familiar with the different patterns, try dividing your class in 2 and combining 2 different rhythms - encourage the children to say the words as they clap and to keep a beat with their feet. Add more parts (and continue to divide the class) if the children are confident and able to maintain a steady beat.
 3. Next you could practice the breaks. Breaks are short contrasting rhythms which add to the interest of the music. The 'sprouts break' is short and everyone plays the same rhythm after the given sign. The 'intro' and 'outro' breaks start and finish the piece. These are in the form of a question and answer between the leader and the rest of the group. Watch Santa Samba part 2 to see how they fit into the music.
 4. Finally, run the Santa Samba part 2 video and enjoy taking part with your instant band. Watch out for 'Santa' when he pops up to cue the breaks!

If your class enjoyed the lesson and you would like to develop this further into a performance then please read part 2 of this guide.

Merry Samba!

Part 2 - Notes for Samba Mestres

Once you have tried out the groove and breaks in class, you could use this as the base for a stand-alone samba performance. As we are currently unable to sing in school, the usual options are somewhat restricted, but there is attached a lead-sheet in case you have students who would like to play the tune on tuned percussion, keyboard or string instruments.

Feel free to use your own structure using the 3 basic elements of the accompaniment - the groove; intro/outro break and the sprouts break. Cue the breaks ad lib. For variety, you could invite your class to invent other Christmas-themed breaks! You could also introduce a solo section or a question and answer break in the middle of the performance.

Please feel free to contact me for help or information -
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Merry Samba!

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