



Cornerstones

Mexican music experience

[Traditional Mexican Music – Buzzle](#)

A description of different styles of Mexican music, such as mariachi, ranchera, banda, norteño, corrido and son.

[A performance of traditional mariachi music – YouTube](#)

This six-minute film showcases a traditional performance by Mariachi Sol de Mexico.

[A performance of traditional ranchera music – YouTube](#)

This four-minute film features a performance of typical ranchera music by the Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlan. Listen carefully for the change of beat and style of music during the performance.

Traditional Mexican dances

[Traditional Dances of Mexico – Dance Love to Know](#)

Background information for teachers (as references are made to 'seduction' and 'flirtation' in the Jarabe Tapatío section) on the most popular dances: Jarabe Tapatío (Mexican Hat Dance), Danza del Venado (Dance of the Deer) and Tlacoloreros (an agricultural dance).

[Traditional Mexican dance steps – eHow](#)

In this two-minute clip, the dance teacher demonstrates the three main steps of Mexican dancing: the planta, tacon and punta.

[Mexican Hat Dance – Dance Love to Know](#)

A simple guide as to how to perform this traditional dance, typically performed to the famous piece of Mexican music El Jarabe Tapatío.

[Mexican Hat Dance – Kidsongs: I Can Dance – YouTube](#)

A two-minute video clip featuring a simple performance of the famous dance, accompanied by the song being sung in English.

Chihuahuan Desert, Mexico

[Chihuahuan Desert, US and Mexico – World Wildlife Fund](#)

Background information about the region including details of the wild life, plant life, landscapes, location, size of the land mass and its temperature.

[Chihuahuan Desert: A Walk through the Desert – YouTube](#)

A four-minute film where Nancy L. Whitlock has interspersed filming with her paintings and drawings of this captivating landscape.

[Desert images – Google](#)

Google has many evocative images of the varying landscapes of the desert.

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La Cucaracha

[La Cucaracha – Spanish traditional song – Mama Lisa’s World](#)

The lyrics to this song are provided in English and Spanish and there is a link from this site to the sheet music for the song.

Maya music

[The Mayan Clay Flute – YouTube](#)

A one-minute demonstration of the Maya clay flute by a well-known Mexican musician.

[Musica maya los monos – YouTube](#)

A strong, rhythmic example of Maya music, accompanying a range of images over four minutes. Shows how natural sounds (in this case, monkeys’ calls) influenced Maya music.

[El Salvador, ‘Danza de las Obsidianas’, Grupo Musical Indigena – YouTube](#)

Four minutes of lively music including flutes, shakers and drums, set to images of Maya culture.

[Types of Mexican Musical Instruments – Buzzle](#)

A description of string, wind and percussion instruments used in Mexican music.

[Maya music – YouTube](#)

Search YouTube for more clips featuring Maya music, giving the children examples of a range of styles and tempos.

Myths and legends

[City of the Enchanted Dwarf – Mayan Kids](#)

Background information for teachers about the site of Uxmal.

Maya culture

[Mayan Civilisation, Ruins and Culture in Central America – Global Sherpa](#)

Detailed information for teachers about the Maya culture, including information on the main cities of the ancient Maya civilisation, such as Chichén Itza, Tulum and Tikal Guatemala.

[Mayan Agriculture and Diet – Crystalinks](#)

A short summary of the food production methods and diet of the ancient Maya.

[Mayan script – Omniglot](#)

Brief explanation of the origin of writing systems, glyphs and numerical symbols used by the Maya civilisation between 500 BC and AD 1200.

[Making chocolate like the Mayas used to – Globotreks](#)

An insight into the chocolate-making process which relies heavily on methods used by the Maya many centuries ago.

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