

Mambo Mania: Exploring the Rhythms!

Hi Phoebe! Get ready to explore a super energetic and fun type of music called Mambo!

What You'll Need:

- A device with internet access to play music (computer, tablet, or phone)
- Speakers or headphones
- Space to move around a little!
- Optional: Paper and pencil

Let's Dive In! (30 Minutes)

Part 1: ¡Hola, Mambo! (5 mins)

Let's start our journey! Mambo is a vibrant musical style and dance that originally comes from **Cuba** in the 1930s and 1940s. It's known for its exciting rhythms, strong brass instruments (like trumpets and saxophones!), and infectious energy that just makes you want to move!

Listen Quick: Let's hear a classic! Search for 'Pérez Prado - Mambo No. 5' (the original instrumental version, not the Lou Bega one for now!). Just listen to the first minute. What instruments do you hear? Does it sound fast or slow? (Discuss: Trumpets, saxes, lots of percussion like drums and cowbell, generally upbeat/fast tempo).

Part 2: Mambo Flavors (15 mins)

Mambo wasn't just one thing! It evolved. Let's explore two 'flavors':

Flavor 1: Classic Big Band Mambo

- **Characteristics:** Often instrumental (no singing), lots of brass playing catchy tunes, strong syncopated rhythms (that means rhythms that play off the main beat!), medium-fast to fast tempo.
- **Listen:** Search for 'Tito Puente - Ran Kan Kan'. Listen to the first minute. Notice the powerful horns and the driving beat.

Flavor 2: Mambo Influence

- **Characteristics:** Sometimes has vocals, might mix Mambo rhythms with other styles like pop or rock, still has that energetic feel but might sound a bit different from the classics.
- **Listen:** Now search for 'Lou Bega - Mambo No. 5'. This is a famous example of Mambo rhythms being used in a pop song much later (1990s). How is it similar to the Pérez Prado version? How is it different? (Discuss: Both have the Mambo name and energy, but Lou Bega's has vocals, different production, and is more 'pop'.)

Activity: Rhythm Time!

Mambo has a cool syncopated rhythm. Let's try a basic pattern. Think: 'short-short-SLOOOW, short-short-SLOOOW'.

Try clapping it: clap-clap-PAUSE, clap-clap-PAUSE (where PAUSE is about the same length as the two

claps put together). We can try tapping our feet too!

Now, play a bit of 'Ran Kan Kan' again. Can you clap or tap along with that feeling?

Part 3: Feel the Beat & Wrap Up! (10 mins)

Activity: Mambo Moves!

Let's play 30 seconds of each song again ('Pérez Prado - Mambo No. 5', 'Tito Puente - Ran Kan Kan', 'Lou Bega - Mambo No. 5'). You don't need to do any fancy steps! Just stand up and move how the music makes you feel. Does the classic Mambo make you move differently than the Mambo-influenced pop song?

Discussion & Review:

- Where did Mambo music come from? (Cuba!)
- What are some instruments you often hear in Mambo? (Trumpets, saxophones, percussion!)
- Can you describe the difference between the classic Mambo we heard and the Mambo-influenced pop song?
- Did you enjoy clapping the rhythm?

Great job exploring Mambo today, Phoebe! It's a fantastic style of music with a rich history.

Optional Extension: Can you find one more song online that sounds like Mambo? Maybe search for 'Tito Rodriguez Mambo' and see what you discover!