

LEARN JOROPO WITH LADAMA

Est. Time: 45 minutes

Subjects: General Music, Physical Education, History/Social Studies, ELA

Age Range: Elementary


[View the classroom lesson version](#)

★ *TEACHROCK* ★



What is Joropo, and how is it inspired by nature?

In this lesson you will learn:

- How to play the rhythms of Joropo
 - How to sing the lyrics of traditional Joropo and dance Joropo
 - How the plants and animals of the High Plains region of Venezuela influences the traditions of its people
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Los Llanos are a vast area of grasslands located in the country of Venezuela, east of the Andes Mountains.

This is the home of Joropo: the traditional gathering, song, and dance of Venezuela.

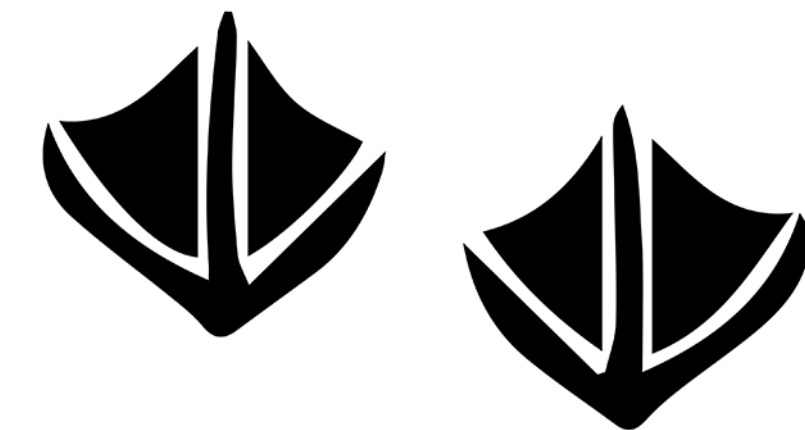
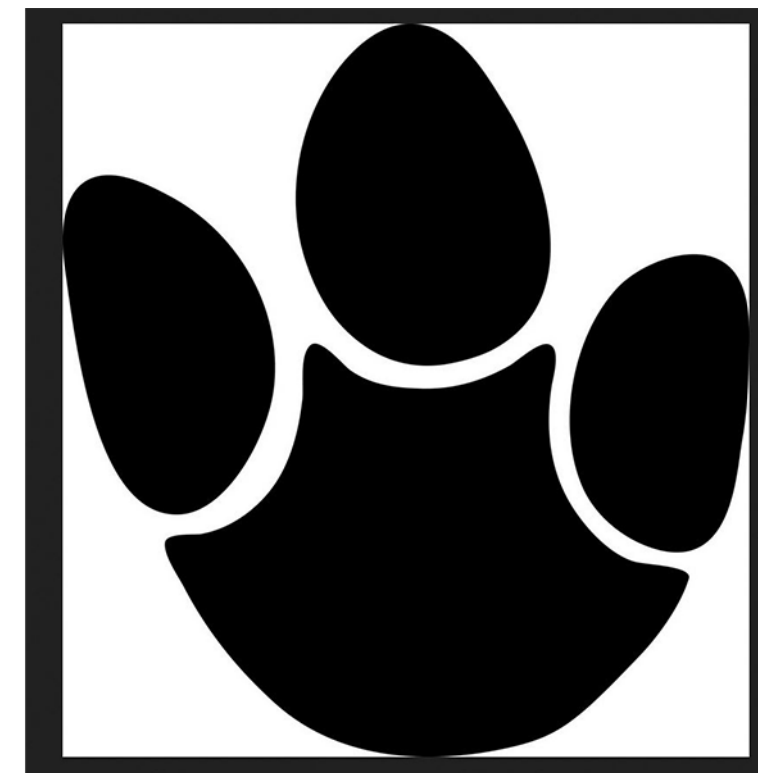
Joropo is part of the **oral tradition** of *Los Llaneros*, or the people of the high plains. Like stories, Joropo is passed down through generations by word of mouth.



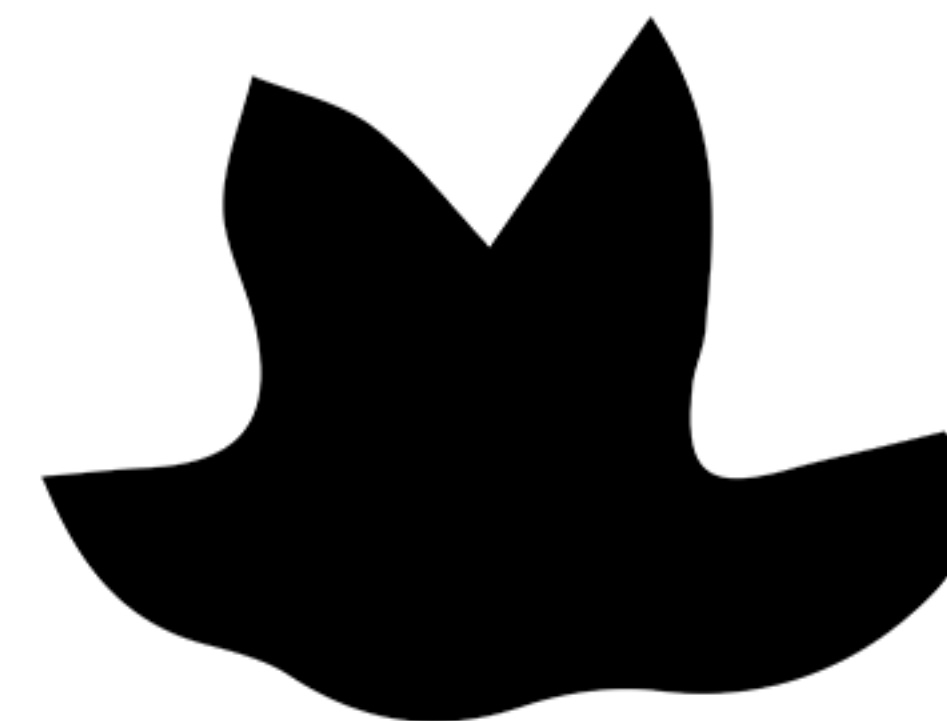
Los Llanos is an area rich with plants and animals, and the culture of *Los Llaneros* reflects their closeness with nature. The song and dance of Joropo incorporates many elements that celebrate nature.




Animals in *Los Llanos*, such as the capybara (*chiguire*), the duck (*pato*), and the tapir (*danta*), inspired the chords that are played on stringed instruments during Joropo.



Can you imagine how a person might create shapes with their fingers when playing their instrument to mimic these animal footprints?





Joropo is a kind of music that mixes African, Indigenous, and Spanish influences. But it's more than just music, it's also an event that brings people together to dance, sing, play, and eat.

People can come together through the Joropo anywhere and at any moment, because many of its traditional instruments are small, made from the trees and plants of the high plains.

Joropo is also inspired by the natural environment of the high plains region. Its lyrics, stories, and dance movements are influenced by the animals and plants of the region.





MAFER BANDOLA

Watch and listen to Mafer Bandola performing in a traditional Joropo ensemble.



Consider or ask a friend:

- How would you describe the feeling of this performance?
- Which instruments are being played?
- Are the rhythms slow or fast?
- How do you think people feel when they listen to this music?

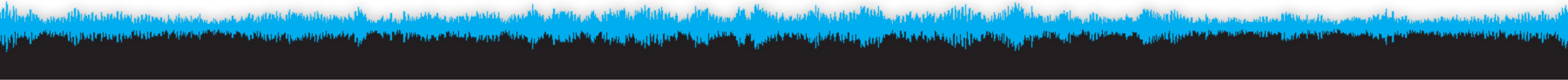


JOROPO RHYTHM AND CHORDS

Learn to play Joropo! **Watch this clip** and clap along to the rhythm.



Consider or discuss with a friend:

- How is this rhythm different from other music you know?
 - How does playing Joropo feel different than watching the video?
 - How are the footprints of Llano animals important in playing Joropo?
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JOROPO SONG

Now it's time to learn to sing Joropo! Stand up and get ready to sing while you **watch this video** from LADAMA.



Consider or discuss with a friend:

- How is the rhythm important in Joropo?
- How does this singing make Joropo complete?
- Describe how you felt while singing Joropo.



PAJARILLO

Get on your feet and dance, clap, and sing along with LADAMA performing a traditional song “Pajarillo.”



Consider or discuss with a friend:

- What do you think of LADAMA's performance?
- How does this Joropo share the connections of the people of *Los Llanos* to the natural world?

SUMMARY

- Joropo is a traditional celebration of song and dance that originated in the *Los Llanos* region of Venezuela
- Joropo's roots can be found in the cultures descended from indigenous peoples, enslaved Africans, and the Spanish colonists
- Joropo highlights the strong connection that peoples of this region feel to nature and the animals living in *Los Llanos*



BE CREATIVE

- Draw a detailed picture of a Joropo Celebration. Include as many elements of this lesson as you can: the singing, the dancing, the connection to nature. Let your drawing tell a story!
- Create a song inspired by the nature around you! Use all tools you have - singing, dance, rhythm, language, and your imagination.
- Write a short story from the perspective of an animal that is highlighted in Joropo.



BE CURIOUS

Check out these links to learn more about Joropo:

- [**The Joropo of the Colombian and Venezuelan Plains**](#)
- [**Joropo: The Art of Stomping with Colombian style**](#)
- [**All Around this World - Joropo**](#)



CONNECT

Share with us! Either you or an adult in your life can share your picture of Joropo, your Short Story, or your Original Song with TeachRock on **Instagram** or **Facebook**, email to **info@teachrock.org**, or Tweet it to **@TeachRock**





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