

RAP LIKE CHOCQUIBTOWN WITH LADAMA

Est. Time: 45 minutes

Subjects: Music, History/Social Studies, ELA

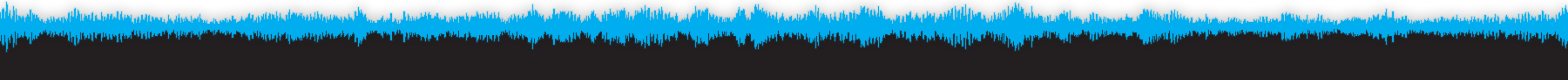
Age Range: Elementary

[View the classroom lesson version](#)

★ *TEACHROCK* ★



In this lesson you will:


- Understand the connections between history, geography, music, cultural identity, and community by exploring the Colombian Hip Hop group ChocQuibTown
 - Learn how to play a ChocQuibTown beat using body percussion
 - Explore the idea of using music to express your own cultural identity
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What is Cultural Identity?

Cultural Identity is the feeling of belonging to a group. Your cultural identity can be found in your ethnicity, your age, where you come from, where you go to school, or things you like to do.

Consider or talk with a friend:

- Why is cultural identity important?
 - What are some ways that people share their cultural identity?
 - What role does music play in sharing cultural identity?
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ChocQuibTown is an award-winning Hip Hop group from the El Chocó region of western Columbia. They are known for creating music that celebrates where they live, their cultural heritage, and their cultural identity.






The El Chocó region borders the Pacific Ocean, and is near the equator. The climate is warm, and the region experiences almost 300 inches of rainfall each year.

After gold was discovered in El Chocó in 1537, thousands of enslaved people were brought to the area from West Africa and forced to work in the mines.

The descendants of those enslaved people live in El Chocó today, along with the native peoples who have lived in this region for at least 12,000 years.



Consider or talk with a friend:

- How do you think that the cultural identity of people who live in El Chocó is shaped by the region's location, climate, and history?



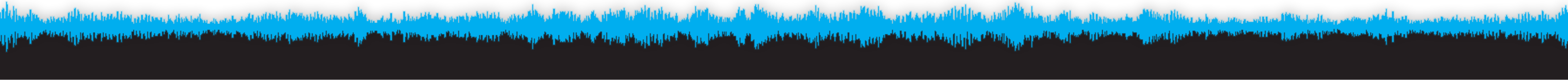
Watch the music video, *De Donde Vengo Yo*, by ChocQuibTown. The title of this song translates to “*Where I Come From*.”

Pay close attention to the images in this video, and if you know Spanish, listen to the lyrics.





Consider or talk with a friend:

- How are these musicians celebrating their cultural identity in this video?
 - What are some of the images you saw in the video? Do you think they live in a city, a small town, or a village?
 - What did you see that might be a clue to where these musicians are from?
- 



Think about your own cultural identity.

On a piece of paper, write these statements, and finish them with your own words.

My name is _____

I am from _____

I like _____




Watch ChocoQuibTown performing their song, “Somos Pacifico,” live on KEXP, then read the **English translation to this song**.

Consider or talk with a friend:


- What might ChocQuibTown mean when they say “we are joined by a region”?
- How does ChocQuibTown describe their homeland?
- Do they seem proud of where they come from?





A **cypher** is an informal gathering of rappers, beatboxers, and/or break dancers who gather in a circle, so that they can jam musically together.

Consider or talk with a friend:

- How does a Cypher help people to share their stories?
 - Did you see the members of ChocoQuibTown use a cypher in “Somos Pacifico”?
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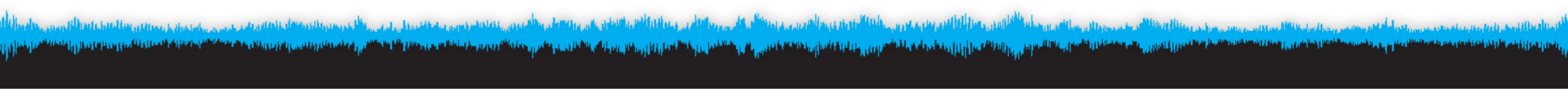
Create your own rap like the members of ChocoQuibTown!

Using the paper where you wrote about yourself, copy the sentences below and fill in your name, where you are from, and “favorite thing,” to create a Spanish version of the lyrics.

Me llamo _____

Soy de _____

Y me gusta _____



Follow along with **this LADAMA video** to learn the ChocQuibTown beat, and **this LADAMA** video to learn how to rap and sing in Spanish.

Consider or talk with a friend:

- Is the beat to “Somos Pacífico” similar to any beats you have heard before?
- How did you like singing in Spanish?
- How does singing in another language compare with singing in a language that you know?





Create your own version of a song like those you have heard from ChocoQuibTown!

Perform the rap you wrote using **this video** as the background music.


Then have some fun and add some new lyrics that celebrate your cultural identity or share something important that is happening in your community!





ChocQuibTown was formed from a shared desire to celebrate the cultural roots of the El Chocó region and empower their community through music.

Consider or talk with a friend:

- Do you know another artist that celebrates their cultural roots or their hometown?
 - How does this music empower communities and promote shared experiences?
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SUMMARY

- The Colombian Hip Hop group ChocQuibTown celebrates the history, geography, music, cultural identity, and community of the El Chocó region
- A ChocQuibTown beat can be played using body percussion
- Music can be used to express cultural identity



BE CREATIVE

- Film your song in the style of ChocoQuibTown and share it with your friends, or create and record your own virtual Cypher using Zoom or Google meet (with a responsible adult's permission.)
- Create a Cultural Identity Self Portrait of yourself that highlights the various aspects of your own cultural identity.



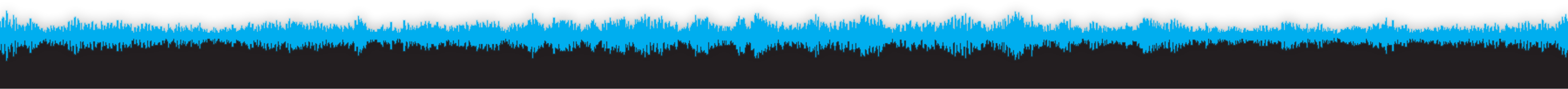
BE CURIOUS

- Discover what it would be like to visit El Chocó, Colombia in **this video!**
- **Watch this interview** with members of ChocQuibTown
- Learn more about the **El Chocó region** of Columbia



CONNECT

Share with us! Either you or an adult in your life can share your ChoQuib Town song, your Cultural Identity Self Portrait, or your Class Cypher with TeachRock on **Instagram** or **Facebook**, email to **info@teachrock.org**, or Tweet it to **@TeachRock**





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