

# Learn Joropo with LADAMA



Est. Time: 45 minutes

Subjects: General Music, Physical Education

Age Range: Elementary School

See the full lesson [here!](#)

★ *TEACHROCK* ★

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

In this lesson you will:

- Trace connections between Joropo and the animals of the Venezuelan High Plains
- Discover Spanish words about Joropo and Venezuela
- Use your voice and body to sing, play, and dance Joropo



Watch [this slideshow](#) to learn some of the Spanish words for this lesson.

Then cut out flashcards from [this handout](#) and quiz yourself on the words.

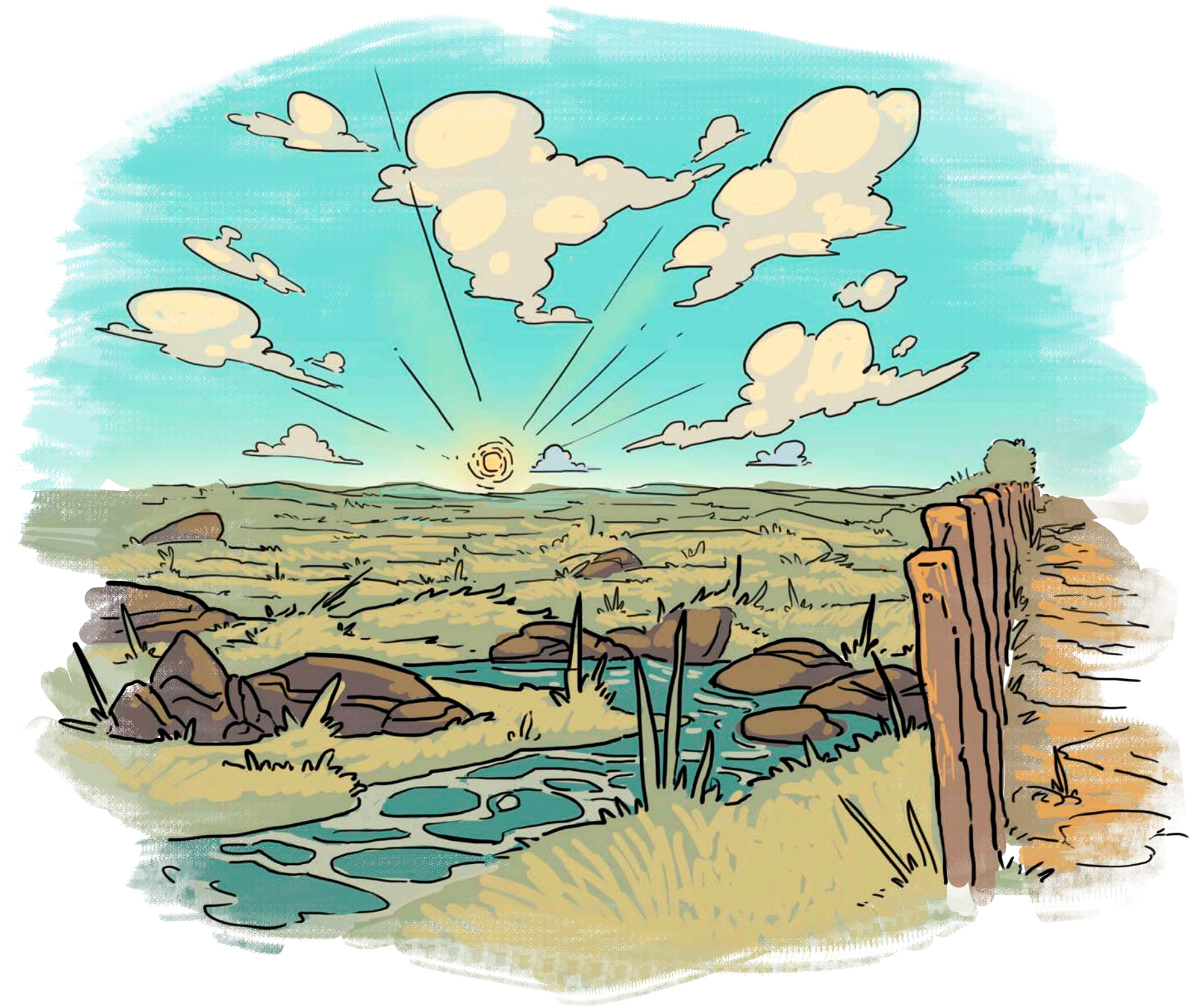
Watch [this clip](#) of Mafer Bandola playing Joropo music.

While watching the clip, consider:

- How you would describe what Joropo music sounds like?
- How Joropo music makes you feel.
- What people in the audience might be doing while the Joropo music is being played.

Joropo music comes from the High Plains of Venezuela.

The plains are called **Llanos** in Spanish, and are tropical grassland that covers the southern and eastern parts of the country.



The people that create this music are known as ***llaneros***, which means “people of the High Plains” in English.

***Llaneros*** sing, dance, and eat to Joropo. It helps build their community.

What sorts of music and activities brings your family or community together?



Young **Llaneros** learn how to play and dance Joropo by watching and listening to older people.

Because it's not written down, Joropo is an oral tradition. In this case, "oral" means "by mouth."

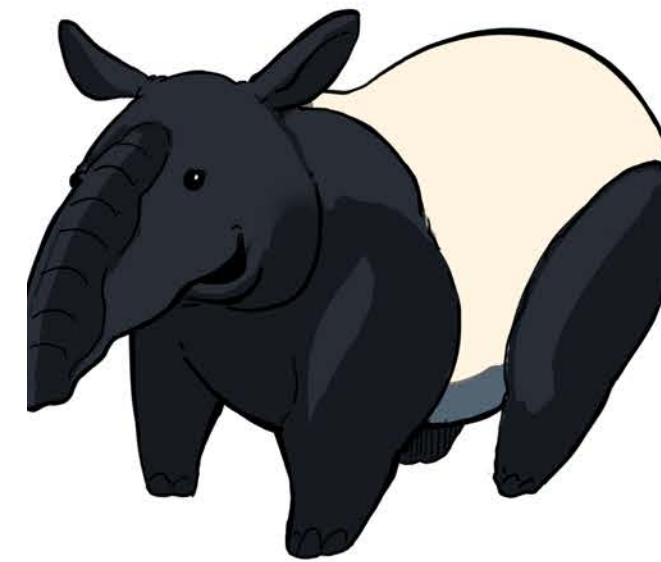
Can you think of a song you learned by listening to someone else sing it?



Joropo is inspired by the animals in the High Plains.

Practice saying the Spanish name for each animal in the illustration.

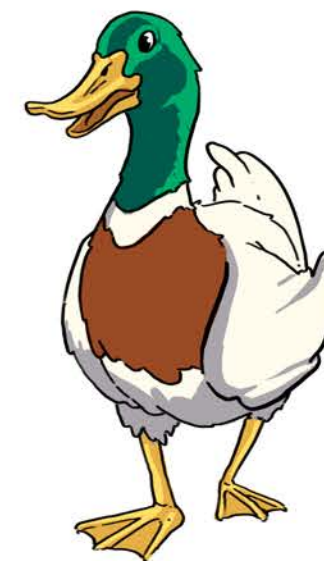
Then watch [this clip](#) to discover one of the ways animals from the high plains inspire Joropo.



**El Tapir**



**El Gabán**



**El Pato**



**El Capibara**



Now you will learn how to play Joropo.

Clap along to [this clip](#) to learn the traditional rhythm (*ritmo*) of Joropo.

Finally, dance along to [this clip](#) to learn the traditional steps (*zapateo*) of Joropo.



After playing, singing, and dancing Joropo, reflect on the following questions:

- Was clapping the Joropo rhythm new to you? Have you ever clapped a similar rhythm?
- What was it like singing in Spanish?
- Do you have a different opinion of Joropo now that you know how to perform it?
- What are some ways Joropo is inspired by nature in the Venezuelan High Plains?

Practice everything you learned!

[Watch this video](#) of LADAMA performing “Pajarillo.”

Sing, dance, or clap along!

# SUMMARY

- Joropo music comes from the High Plains (*llanos*) in Venezuela, and is inspired by the animals of that region
- Animals such as the capybara, tapir, duck, and gabán inspire the songs, dances, and chord shapes of Joropo
- Joropo music is an oral tradition - ***llaneros*** learn the songs by watching other people play and sing them

# BE CREATIVE

Create your own Joropo video! Record yourself singing and dancing Joropo. Ask a friend or family member to join you via an online video platform like Zoom or Google Meet.

Use a [comic strip frame](#) to draw and explain the sequence of Joropo dance moves.

If you play an instrument, try to play the notated music in this lesson on your instrument using [this handout](#).

# CONNECT

Share it with us! Either you or an adult in your life can share your work with TeachRock on **Instagram** or **Facebook**, email to **info@teachrock.org**, tweet it to **@TeachRock**, or make an Instagram post and tag us **@teachrock.org**



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