

Mama Paqueta

Carnival Song from Brazil

1. Ma - ma Pa - qui - ta, Ma - ma Pa - qui - ta,
Ma - ma Pa - qui - ta, buy your ba - by a pa - pa - ya,
Ma - ma Pa - qui - ta says, "I have - n't an - y mon - ey
A ripe pa - pa - ya, and a ba - na - na,
To buy pa - pa - yas and ripe ba - na - nas,
A ripe ba - na - na that your ba - by will en - joy, ma - ma - ma - ma,
2. Let's go to Car - ni - val and dance the night a - way!"

2. Mama Paqueta, Mama Paqueta,
Mama Paqueta, buy your baby some pajamas,
Some new pajamas, a yellow blanket,
A yellow blanket that your baby will enjoy, ma-ma-ma-ma.
Mama Paqueta, Mama Paqueta,
Mama Paqueta says, "I haven't any money
To buy pajamas, a yellow blanket,
Let's go to Carnival and dance the night away!"

SINGING

Before singing the song, have the students share ideas about Carnival. Help them be prepared to “celebrate” with singing and dancing. Have the students practice a “pat - clap” pattern in 2. Once they are comfortable keeping the meter in 2 add the song by echoing back one line at a time. Try echoing two lines together. Then sing all four lines of the song together. Keep the “pat - clap” meter in the body while singing the song. Have the students try swaying or walking while singing and doing the body percussion in a meter of 2. Now they’re ready to celebrate.

PLAYING INSTRUMENTS

Have the students clap the rhythm pattern that accompanies the song lyrics “Car-ni-val and dance” (rest). Repeat the short rhythm pattern several times until the students are able to perform the pattern accurately. Now practice the rhythm pattern that accompanies the song lyrics “have-n’t an-y mon-ey” (rest). Again, practice clapping the pattern until accurate. If the students have difficulty staying together have them “say” and “play” together using the verbal lyrics to anchor the rhythm in their bodies. Once these two patterns are learned, divide the class into two instrumental groups. Give half the class claves or rhythm sticks and the other half maracas or shakers. Assign each group one of the two rhythm patterns to play. Practice playing the patterns on the instruments in sequence “Carnival and dance” (rest), followed by “haven’t any money” (rest). Once the students can keep this sequence, sing the song while they play.

CREATING

When the students are successful singing and playing the instruments together, suggest that they look at the song lyrics and find other four beat rhythm pattern phrases to learn the same way. Try adding different instruments to the new rhythms phrases (tambourines, wood blocks etc.). Sequence the new patterns in with the previous rhythm patterns. Rearrange the instrumental sequence until they find the one that is most satisfying. Practice playing the whole sequence. Now practice singing with the playing. Now walk, sway, sing, and play all at the same time.

LISTENING

Have the students replace the instruments they have been using with different sizes of drums. Play the rhythm sequence through using the drums while singing. Listen to the new timbre created by changing the instrumentation. Analyze the sound of each arrangement and determine which is preferred by the class. Decide which arrangement sounds more like Carnival music.

INTEGRATION (Social Studies and Art)

Since “Mama Paqueta” is originally from Brazil, learn about celebrating Carnival in Brazil. Compare Carnival with Mardi Gras in New Orleans. Make decorative masks adding feathers, beads, and bright colors to celebrate during the cold gray months of January and February.

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