

# Caribbean Folk Music

Researched (with love) by Jocelyn Beldman.

# Cultural Context Information

*This project will focus on three main elements of Caribbean music:*

- *Calypso Style*
- *Reggae*
- *Steel Pan music*

"Music of the Caribbean." *Caribya*. Web. 3 July, 2018.

<http://caribya.com/caribbean/culture/music/>

# Calypso

- *African music played a role in the development of Calypso music*
- *Calypso originated as slave songs, sung by plantation workers*
- *Later, the tempo was sped up to form Soca music*

Nielsen, Harry. "The History of Caribbean Calypso Music." Web, 22 July, 2017. 3 July 2018.

*This website includes 3 examples to show the evolution of Calypso music over the last 60 years. The last example from Rihanna is a very mild version of modern day Soca music. I have chosen not to include many listening examples of Soca music as the genre is generally not appropriate for children.*

<https://spinditty.com/genres/The-Rise-and-Fall-of-Calypso-Music>

# Reggae

- *Reggae music stems from African music and American Blues*
- *Together combined to form Rocksteady and Ska*

## What is Ska?

Kilifin, Lyndsey. "An Introduction to Ska in 10 Songs." *The Culture Trip*. Web, 2 December 2016. 3 July 2018.

*This web link includes several YouTube links of examples of Ska music. You may only want to listen to one or two to have an idea of the sound.*

<https://theculturetrip.com/caribbean/jamaica/articles/an-introduction-to-ska-in-10-songs/>

# Reggae

## What is Rocksteady?

### Rocksteady: Digging up the Roots of Reggae

*This link leads to an article on a review of a documentary about the origins of Rocksteady. This link is helpful in that it lists many Rocksteady artists if you'd like to do more research.*

Steckles, Garry. "Rocksteady Rules." Issue 101. *Caribbean Beat*. Caribbean Airlines, January/February 2010. 3 July 2018.

<https://www.caribbean-beat.com/issue-101/rock-steady-rules#axzz5KFGFBBAY>

# Steel Pan

- *Steel Pan originated out of necessity when drums and other African rituals were banned in Trinidad in the 1930's*
- *People improvised and created a new instrument*
- *Steel Pan is unofficially considered very Trinidadian*

*The following link outlines the development of the steel pan as an instrument and as a cultural practice. There are a couple YouTube links on the page as well.*

"A Brief History of Steel Pan." BBC. BBC News, 24 July, 2012. 3 July 2018.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-18903131>

# Steel Pan

*Here is a brief documentary on the evolution of Pan that you could show your students as well.*

<https://youtu.be/ReNbZFKKX7c>

“Steel Drums in Trinidad and Tobago.” *YouTube*. Posted by ‘sagelandmedia’ on 8 June 2011. [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), 7 July 2018.

# Helpful and Interesting Lesson Plans

Jamaican Music in the Classroom:

[https://media.smithsonianfolkways.org/docs/lesson\\_plans/FLP10088\\_jamaica\\_children.pdf](https://media.smithsonianfolkways.org/docs/lesson_plans/FLP10088_jamaica_children.pdf)

Summary: Students will be introduced to the music and history of Jamaican culture through performing various game songs and dances, as well as playing simple songs transcribed for the recorder.

*This lesson plan has many elements. If your students do not play the recorder you can do just the listening activities or the game.*



# Helpful and Interesting Lesson plans

## Evolution of Trinidadian Pan Music

[https://media.smithsonianfolkways.org/docs/lesson\\_plans/FLP10071\\_trinidad\\_pan\\_music.pdf](https://media.smithsonianfolkways.org/docs/lesson_plans/FLP10071_trinidad_pan_music.pdf)

*This lesson - geared toward upper grade levels - takes students through the evolution of Pan music through identifying the elements of African and Calypsonian music.*

### Summary:

Students will be exposed to opportunities for tracing the development of West African drumming, to Trinidadian tamboo bamboo, to the invention of the pan, to modern day pan ensembles through listening, identifying, recreating, and orchestrating these various musics.

# Helpful and Interesting Lesson Plans

## Calypso Rhythms

[https://media.smithsonianfolkways.org/docs/lesson\\_plans/FLP10072\\_caribbean\\_calypso\\_beat.pdf](https://media.smithsonianfolkways.org/docs/lesson_plans/FLP10072_caribbean_calypso_beat.pdf)

### Summary:

In this lesson, students will travel to the island of Trinidad to explore the feel of Calypso music, and participate in a Trinidadian popular dance, the Limbo. Students will be able to perform a Calypso rhythmic pattern on classroom instruments and will accompany their own Limbo dance on Orff instruments while exploring the social and cultural context of Calypso music.

# Helpful and Interesting Lesson Plans

## Trinidadian Steel Pan

[https://media.smithsonianfolkways.org/docs/lesson\\_plans/FLP10009\\_trinidad\\_steelband\\_short.pdf](https://media.smithsonianfolkways.org/docs/lesson_plans/FLP10009_trinidad_steelband_short.pdf)

*This lesson - geared towards grade 6+ - aims to teach students about Steel Pan Orchestras and their history.*

### Summary:

Through photos, recordings, videos, and playing instruments, students will explore the steel band tradition of Trinidad and Tobago. In the first two segments, they will learn and demonstrate understanding of the basic aspects of steel band music, culture, and history. In the third segment, students will play in this style on their own string instruments.

*I have downloaded copies of each of the lesson plans. If you'd like me to email one or all to you, please email me at [jo.beldman@gmx.com](mailto:jo.beldman@gmx.com).*

# Singing Games

## Biddy, Biddy

Source:  
Martha W. Beckwith  
*Folk Games of Jamaica*  
Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., 1922

Retrieved from the Holy Names University Collection:  
[Http://kodaly.hnu.edu](http://kodaly.hnu.edu)

“The American Folk Song Collection.”  
Kodaly Center. Holy Names University. 3  
July 2018.

Bid - dy bid - dy hold fast lost my gold ring,

One go to Lon - don come back a - gain.

Bid - dy, bid - dy hold fast lost my gold ring.

One go to Lon - don, come back a - gain.

### Game Directions

Formation: Seated circle of children, players' fists clenched and held close together.

One child (standing) is the ring bearer, a second child (seated) is the seeker.

Action: As they sing, the ring bearer goes from player to player and secretly drops the ring into one of the fists. At the end of the song, the seeker must guess who holds the ring.

# Singing Games

## Brown Girl in the Ring



**Aim of the game:** Players from a ring holding hands, apart from one of them who goes into the middle of the ring and starts skipping around to the beat of the tune.

**Set up:** Players from a ring holding their hands. One player goes into the middle of the ring.

### Rules:

1. The elected player starts skipping around to the beat of the tune --  
"There's a brown girl in the ring  
cha la la la lah  
There's a brown girl in the ring  
cha la la la lah  
There's a brown girl in the ring  
cha la la la lah  
She looks like a sugar in a plum -- PLUM PLUM"
2. The player starts doing his/her favorite dance during this song segment  
"Show me your motion  
cha la la la lah  
show me your motion  
cha la la lah  
show me your motion  
cha la la la lah  
She looks like a sugar in a plum -- PLUM PLUM"
3. During this segment the player picks his/her partner/friend to join him/her to dance in the ring
4. "Show me your partner  
cha la la la lah  
show me your motion  
cha la la lah  
show me your motion  
cha la la la lah  
She looks like a sugar in a plum -- PLUM PLUM"



**Equipment and Materials:** None

**Age:**  
10+

**Number of players:**  
4+

**Duration:**  
Infinite

"Brown Girl in the Ring."  
*Tavia's Recall.*  
Recallgames. 7 July  
2018.

# Singing Games

*Link to a recording of 'Miss Lou' (Louise Bennet, Jamaican poet and performer) performing on a recording made in 1957 of 'Brown Girl in the Ring':*

<https://youtu.be/Y97RLpgdxyw>

“Brown Girl in the Ring: Louise Bennet.” *YouTube*. Posted by ‘zingzangwallawalla’ 25 November 2012.  
[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com), 7 July 2018.

# Lullabies

## Niño querido

Informant/Performer:  
Cruz Losada  
from Puerto Rico  
Oakland, CA, 1939

Source:  
Library of Congress AFS 3867 A3  
Collected by Sidney Robertson Cowell

*Retrieved from the Holy Names University*

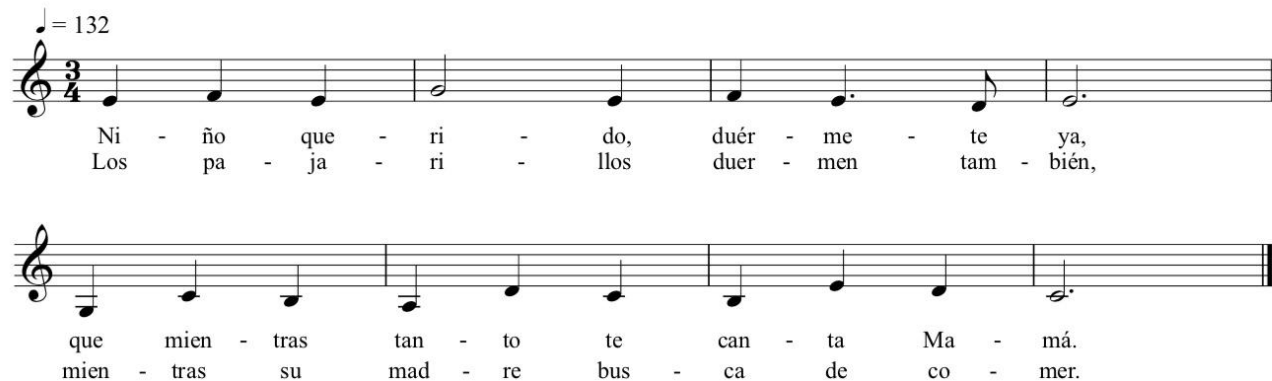
*Collection:*

[Http://kodaly.hnu.edu](http://kodaly.hnu.edu)

"The American Folk Song  
Collection." *Kodaly Center*. Holy  
Names University. 3 July 2018.

*Take some time and listen to  
the recording provided on the  
Holy Names website.*

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Ni - ño que - ri - do, duér - me - te ya,  
Los pa - ja - ri - llos duer - men tam - bién,

que mien - tras tan - to te can - ta Ma - má.  
mien - tras su mad - re bus - ca de co - mer.

Transcribed by Arwen Lawrence

### Spanish Text

1. Niño querido, duérmete ya,  
que mientras tanto te canta Mamá.
2. Los pajarillos duermen también,  
mientras su madre busca de comer.

### English Translation

1. Beloved child, sleep now,  
and meanwhile, Mama will sing to you.
2. The little birds also sleep,  
while their mother looks for food.



# Redemption Song

“With two verses, a repeated chorus, and a simple chord progression, "Redemption Song" is a folk singalong from the reggae tradition. Written at the time of Marley's diagnosis with cancer, it evidences the increasingly religious nature of his songwriting on the 1980 album *Uprising*. The spiritual does not, however, overshadow the call to awaken against tyranny, and the message is the possibility of redemption, no matter how slim.”

Smith, Ian K. “Top 20 Political Songs: Redemption Song, Bob Marley and the Wailers, 1980.” *NewStatesman*. Web, 25 March 2010. 7 July 2018.

# Redemption Song

<https://youtu.be/kOFu6b3w6c0>

“Bob Marley: Redemption Song.” *YouTube*. Posted by ‘Isabel Carlvaho’, 21 December 2012. 7 July 2018.

# Songs to Sing:

1) 'Banana Boat Song' - Harry Belafonte

<https://youtu.be/PMigXnXMhQ4> (Posted by '667none', 2 November 2009.)

2) 'Linstead Market' - Miss Lou (Louise Bennet)

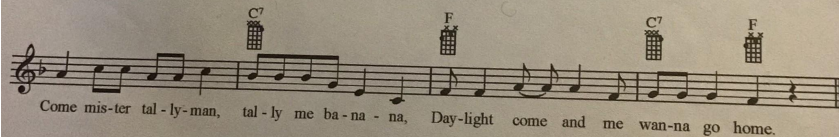
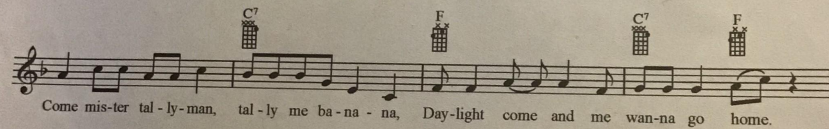
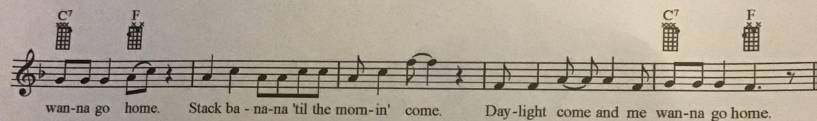
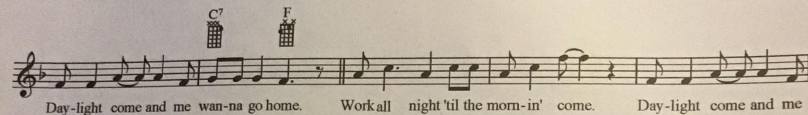
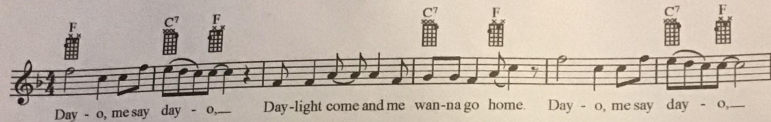
<https://youtu.be/lCstpeu4Oes> (Posted by 'JABLESPANOL', 28 December 2014.)

3) 'Don't Worry' - (Bob Marley)

<https://youtu.be/EYi5aW1GdUU> (Posted by 'Mafdet Leon', 22 December 2012.)

# Day-O (Banana Boat Song)

Traditional

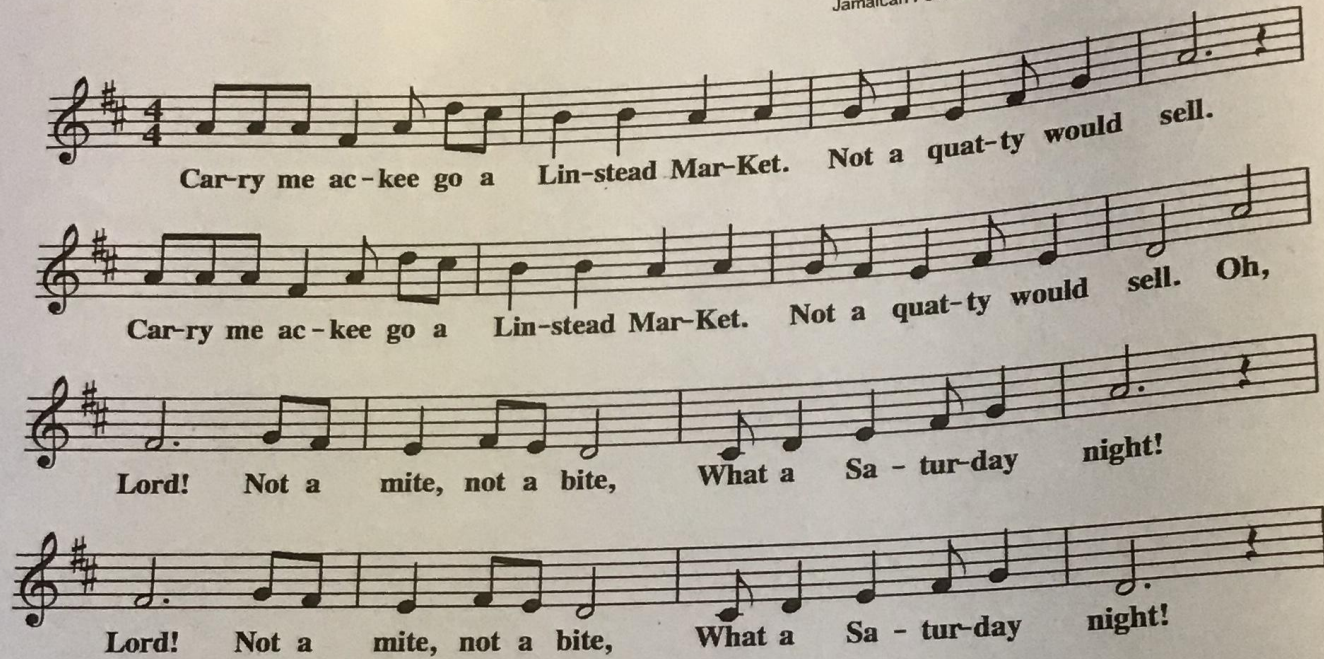


Verse 2  
Lift six-foot, seven-foot, eight-foot, bunch!  
Daylight come and me wanna go home.  
Lift six-foot, seven-foot, eight-foot, bunch!  
Daylight come and me wanna go home.

Verse 3  
A beautiful bunch o' ripe banana,  
Daylight come and me wanna go home,  
I see deadly, black tarantula,  
Daylight come and me wanna go home.

# Linstead Market

Jamaican Folk Song



Car-ry me ac-kee go a Lin-stead Mar-Ket. Not a quat-ty would sell.

Car-ry me ac-kee go a Lin-stead Mar-Ket. Not a quat-ty would sell. Oh,

Lord! Not a mite, not a bite, What a Sa - tur-day night!

Lord! Not a mite, not a bite, What a Sa - tur-day night!

Linstead Market is a marketplace in Jamaica. It is written in Jamaican dialect, saying that the persona took his/her akee fruit to the market and did not sell anything.



TITLE Three Little Birds (Don't Worry)

Source \_\_\_\_\_

Performer Bob Marley

Ethnicity/Region Jamaica

Subject of Text Don't Worry

Chorus:

Don't worry, a-bout a thing. 'Cause

Every little thing, 'Gonna be all right. Singing don't

# Other Songs for Exploratory Listening:

1) 'Lord Watch Over Our Shoulders' - Garnett Silk (Religious reference.)

<https://youtu.be/uyiJ-RR6gh4> (Posted by 'badbwoyconnection', 7 February 2008.)

2) 'Hello' - Kes, Steel Pan Instrumental Cover

[https://youtu.be/UJNjIQEy\\_CA](https://youtu.be/UJNjIQEy_CA) (Posted by 'KeishaunJulienMusic', 16 January 2018.)

# Attentive Listening

<https://youtu.be/pwwhRISejj4>

**Musical Selection:** ‘Antigua’ written and performed by Lord Short Shirt.

“Lord Short Shirt - Antigua.” *YouTube*. Posted by ‘maaiasan100’, 4 September 2017. 11 July 2018.

## **Att-L Tips:**

- Allow students to draw pictures of the images described in the text.
- Listen for when the horns sing solo parts versus accompanying parts (when the horns continue to accompany underneath the melody).
- Have students raise their hand when they hear the main theme of the chorus.
- Have students raise their hand when they hear the opening brass theme.
- Discuss between and after listenings what students now know about the island of Antigua.



# Engaged Listening

**Musical Selection:** ‘Antigua’ written and performed by Lord Short Shirt.

“Lord Short Shirt - Antigua.” *YouTube*. Posted by ‘maaiasan100’, 4 September 2017. 11 July 2018.

## **N-Gage Tips:**

- Hum along with the main theme of the brass opening.
- Clap ‘ti tika ti tika | ti tika ti tika’ ostinati while listening.
- Clap ‘ti tika ti ti | ti tika ti ti’ ostinati while listening.
- Have students conduct while listening.

# Enactive Listening

**Musical Selection:** ‘Antigua’ written and performed by Lord Short Shirt.

“Lord Short Shirt - Antigua.” *YouTube*. Posted by ‘maaiasan100’, 4 September 2017. 11 July 2018.

## **N-Act Tips:**

- Have students create a rhythmic ostinati on rhythm instruments to play while listening (challenge them to create a rhythm that matches the uneven, fast paced calypso style).
- Have students notate the main theme of the chorus, and the main theme of the brass part.
- Have students play the main theme on recorder (or Orff instruments if you have the needed notes).
- Students can strum along on ukuleles or boom whackers, figure out as a class where the chord changes are.
- When the chorus is playing, have students sing ‘Antigua’ every time it is sung.
- Have class split the chorus into a call and response.

# Preparation, Presentation, Practice Appendix:

Song:	Pedagogical Purpose:
Biddy Biddy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- tika tika</li><li>- Synco pa</li><li>- fa</li></ul>
There's a Brown Girl	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- anacrusis</li><li>- fa</li></ul>
Nino querido	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- tam ti</li><li>- fa</li><li>- 3/4</li></ul>
Banana Boat Song	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Part singing (call and response)</li></ul>
Redemption Song	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- anacrusis</li></ul>
Linstead Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- uneven beats</li><li>- diatonic</li></ul>
Don't Worry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- anacrusis</li><li>- uneven beats</li></ul>