



Jamaica Lesson Plan

Learning Intentions:

Children will be able to:

- Recall key facts about Jamaica and Carnival
- Compare Jamaican traditions and culture to that of their own country
- Take part in a Jamaican dance routine.

Introduction:

Before teaching the Jamaican carnival dance you may wish to carry out some classroom based activities on Jamaica to increase the children's knowledge.

Here are some ideas to get you started.

Mind Map:

- As a class record all the things you already know about Jamaica on a mind map. Ask the children to find out the Capital, location, language and flag and include this information.

Fruity Facts:

- Ask the children to find out which are grown in Jamaica. Explore why these may differ from the fruits grown in the UK. Ask the children to look when they are in the supermarket and see if they can find any fruit or veg produced in Jamaica.

Weather Pictures:

- (This can be used as a follow on from the previous activity)
- Ask the children to create 2 weather pictures, 1 for the UK and 1 for Jamaica. Compare the 2 pictures. Discuss how weather can affect how we live our daily lives.

Warm Up:

Here are some fun and relevant games which can be used as warm up activities;

Fruit salad

You will need:

Try using old magazines or travel brochures to create collage weather pictures.

- All the children sit in a circle. Each child is given the name of a fruit which is grown in Jamaica. When you call the name of a fruit all the children who have it must stand, run around the circle and return to their place.
- When you call 'fruit salad' everybody runs.

Ideas for Jamaican fruit (possibly mango, guava, papaya, cocoa, passion fruit or avocado pear).

Circle game

- Circle games are a traditional activity amongst Jamaican children. This one incorporates the song 'Brown Girl In The Ring' (popularised by Boney M).
- The children hold hands and form a circle. One child enters the circle and the other children shout 'Show me your moves' then they sing the song whilst moving round in a circle.
- The child in the middle must dance to the song. If the children shout 'Show me your partner', the child in the centre picks a partner to dance with whilst the song is sung.
- After each time the song is sung the child in the centre selects the next child to take their place.

Ideas for Jamaican animals (possibly crocodile, Jamaican Boa, Jamaican iguana, parrot, turtle or fruit bat)

Animal Charades:

- In small groups ask the children to select an animal which is indigenous to Jamaica.
- Each group must then move around the hall pretending to be that animal whilst the other children try to guess what it is.

Main Activity

- Now you are ready to begin teaching your 'Jamaican Carnival Dance'.
- Begin by teaching each section separately and then put them all together.

Have fun!!!!

Follow Up

Anancy The Spider

- Anancy the Spider is a very famous figure in Jamaican stories. Click on the link to read the story of Anancy and the Christmas Fruit.
- This is a great way to introduce the class to Jamaican Patois.
- When you have read the story ask the children to create their own story about Anancy at the Carnival. This can be written down, or acted out!

You will need:

The Culture Club dance dance video instruction (you can watch this beforehand).
Choreographers notes
The Culture Club music download

You will need:

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories/world/anancy.shtml

Senses Story

- After watching 'The Culture Club', discuss with the class the major features of the carnival. Ask them to make a senses table showing what they would expect to see, hear, smell, taste and feel at the carnival.
- You can use your senses table to make a descriptive story about the carnival.

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/famouspeople/standard/seacole/learn/

Tropical fruits
Chalks/ pastels

Mary Seacole

- Mary Seacole is a very famous Jamaican figure. Click on the link to find out more about her life.
- Use the information to create a pictorial storyboard showing the main events of Mary's life.

Fun Fruit

- Why not try introducing the class to some fruits which grow in Jamaica (such as mango, papaya, banana or plantain which can be bought in many supermarkets) by bringing them in for the class to see. If cut up and displayed this can make an excellent subject of a still life using chalks or pastels.

Host your own Cultural Celebration

- Organise a cultural celebration in school. Include facts on Jamaica, a performance of the Jamaican style dance and sing The Culture Club song "Come Together Everyone".
- The Do It Den section of the website provides useful planning resources, music, dance routines, recipes, prop and costume ideas.

Your Celebration

www.bbc.co.uk/ni/schools/4_11/cultureclub/doi/celebration.shtml