

A South American Tour

By Hannah Lemont

Narrator 1: Welcome to our tour of South America! Please fasten your seat belts, get out your maps, and silence your cell phones.

Narrator 2: Our first stop is Peru. There were many ancient civilizations in Peru, including the Incas and the Chavin people. Many of their ancient buildings still stand today, in various states of ruin.

Narrator 3: Peru is an incredibly diverse country that is home to Ameridians, Europeans, Africans, and Asians. While the majority of people in Peru speak Spanish, a significant number of Peruvians speak Quechua, or other similar native languages.

Narrator 4: In certain parts of the mountains in Peru, people celebrate the Festival of Joy, or the Yunza Festival. At this festival, people fill a hollow tree trunk with gifts. People take turns chopping the trunk until it falls and the gifts spill out onto the ground, kind of like a piñata! “La Yunsita” is a song about the gifts in the trunk.

La Yunsita in unison, then in 2 part round

Narrator 5: From Peru, we move north to the country of Ecuador! Ecuador is a small country on the northwest coast of South America, but few know that Ecuador also includes the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific Ocean, about 1,000 kilometers west of the mainland.

Narrator 6: Ecuador is home to an incredible variety of animal species, in part because of the diversity in the Galapagos islands. This makes Ecuador one of only seventeen “megadiverse” countries in the world.

Narrator 7: Our next song, El Juego Chirimbolo, is a singing game played by young children in Ecuador. Like the “hokey pokey,” “Chirimbolo” is a sound that cannot be translated, but children enjoy saying it.

Narrator 8: The parts of the body used to play the game are named in the song, and the singing and movements of El Juego Chirimbolo traditionally become more game-like as the tempo increases. The object is to maintain the movement at increasing speeds without becoming confused, distracted, or falling apart.

El Juego Chirimbolo. All sing twice. Class A perform dance.

Narrator 9: Grab your train tickets, because we’re headed northeast to Venezuela! Venezuela is home to the world’s highest waterfall, Angel Falls.

Narrator 10: Our next song is about traveling between 2 cities in Venezuela: Caracas and Los Teques. Caracas is the largest city in Venezuela and is its capital. It is known for being one of the most cosmopolitan and modern cities in South America, and is located in a large valley.

Narrator 11: Los Teques was founded in 1777 and is about a 40 minute train ride from Caracas. Although there was an old railroad that connected the two cities, it fell into disrepair and shut down in 1966. The Los Teques Metro train system that now connects with Caracas was opened in 2006 and greatly helped travel between the two cities.

El Tren

Narrator 12: Venezuela is also home to the Northern part of the Andes mountain range. The Andes range extends through almost all of South America. Our next two dances come from the Natives of the Andean mountains and the country of Bolivia.

Carnavalito (Class B) Fado Blanquita (Class C)

Narrator 13: From Bolivia, we move south into Argentina! Argentina is the eighth-largest country in the world, and is the largest Spanish-speaking nation in the world.

Narrator 14: Our next song, *Quien es ese Pajarito*, is an Argentinean *chaya*. A *chaya* is a song to be danced in free movements. These types of songs are often sung to the accompaniment of guitar or *charango*.

Narrator 15: The translation to *Quien es ese Pajarito* is as follows:

Who is that little bird
That sings over the lemon tree?
Go tell him to stop singing,
Because he is stealing my heart

Quien es ese Pajarito (Twice)

Narrator 16: Although Argentina is the eighth-largest country in the world, it is not the largest country in South America! That title goes to Brazil, the last stop on our tour.

Narrator 17: Many Brazilians celebrate Carnival, a festive season that occurs immediately before Lent. Carnival usually includes parades of drummers, singers, and dancers, circus-like events, and people dressing up and celebrating in the streets for several days. The city of Rio de Janeiro has an almost legendary Carnival celebration. The drummers play in groups called *samba schools*, and compete to see which group is the best every year. We hope you enjoy our latin-inspired drumming!

Latin-American 4 beat (Class D)

Narrator 18: While tens of thousands of people are involved in the Samba Schools and practice for months in order to be prepared for Carnival, millions more take to the streets to celebrate Carnival with little preparation at all. However, these people still sing and dance along to folk songs that many of them know. Our last two songs are both Brazilian folk songs that very well might be sung at Carnival!

Mama Paqueta
A Zing a Za

Narrator 19: We hope that you have enjoyed our South American tour! We would all like to say thank you for coming to our show tonight, and for your support. As they say in Spanish...
All: Gracias!

Resources:

La Yunsita- Spotlight on Music Grade 4 Textbook pg 350

El Juego Chirimolo- Roots and Branches, Patricia Shehan Campbell, et al. Pg 142

El Tren- Spotlight on Music Grade 2 Textbook pg 326

Carnavalito- Teaching Movement and Dance by Phyllis S Wikart

Fado Blanquita- Teaching Movement and Dance by Phyllis S Wikart- Pg. 380

Quien es ese Pajarito?- Traditional Songs of Singing Cultures by Campbell, et al. pg 8

Latin American 4-beat- Roots and Branches, Patricia Shehan Campbell, et al.

Mama Paqueta- <http://bethsmusicnotes.blogspot.com/2013/02/south-american-folk-songs.html>

A Zing a Za- Spotlight on Music Grade 5 Textbook pg 338