

Title: Rhythm in Tejano Music: Selena Quintanilla & Flaco Jiménez

Time: 60 Minutes (each)

Age: 9-10

Media: Paper

Goals/ objectives	Students will learn how to count out a rhythm while learning about Tejano Music artists Flaco Jiménez and Selena Quintanilla.
How do these goals preserve, create, present or promote cultural arts of Mexican Americans or other Latin@ cultures?	Students will learn the history of Tejano music such as its connection to German folk music (eg. the use of an accordion), and the differences within the genre of Tejano music amongst artists such as Flaco Jiménez and Selena Quintanilla.

Supplies Needed

- Paper
- Pencil
- Markers/ crayons (8 colors)

Agenda

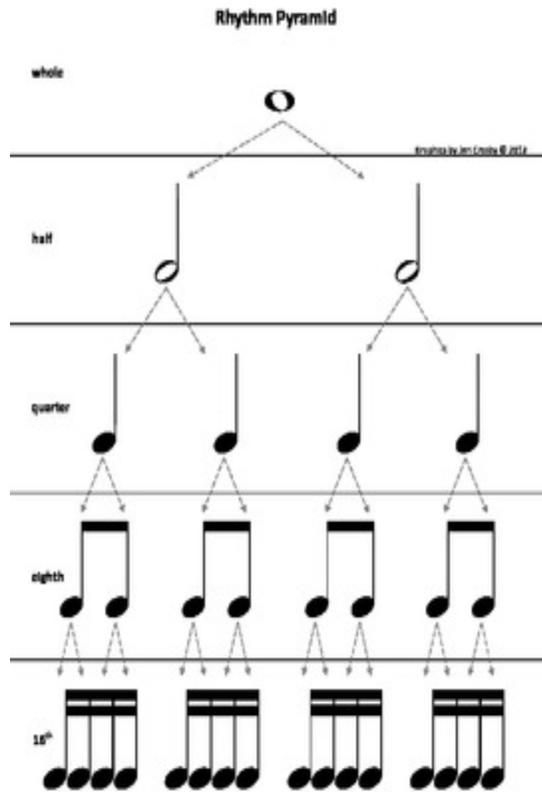
Time

Greetings, meeting everyone, have everyone tell us their favorite singer/ musician. Explain the rules of the online classroom, expectations, practice using zoom.	<b>5-10 Minutes</b>
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Tejano music’s German Roots</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tejano music in Texas and Norteño music of Northern Mexico has largely been influenced by Czech, Bohemian, Italian, and German immigrants in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Schroer, 2004). German immigrants in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon and the distribution of German accordions largely played a role in shaping Norteño/ Conjunto Music (Schroer, 2004). Tejano orchestras gained inspiration from other orchestras in Mexico, Cuba, and the US as well as from folk music that included polkas, waltzes, rancheras, danzones, mambos, boleros, and a variety of other Latin American musical influences (Schroer, 2004). <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KiB7qV1iEp4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KiB7qV1iEp4</a></li> </ul> <p>Flaco Jiménez</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Born in San Antonio, Texas in 1939, Flaco Jiménez was educated in music by his father and grandfather</b> (Deming, 2020). Through the 1960s, Jiménez would play his accordion in dance halls in San Antonio and all across Texas (Deming, 2020). By working along sides artists like Buck Owens and Freddy Fender, Jiménez was able to incorporate country and blues music with Tejano music (Deming, 2020). By forming the groups the Texas Tornados, Jiménez won a Grammy for Best Mexican-American Performance in 1991, the first of five Grammys Jiménez would obtain by 2000 (Deming, 2020). Jiménez has worked as an independent artist as well as alongside members of the Latin-American group Los Super Seven (Deming, 2020). <p>Selena Quintanilla</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selena Quintanilla was born in Lake Jackson, Texas and grew up learning understanding Spanish in addition to English (Brennan, 2020). Selena began performing when she was ten years old, singing songs she learned phonetically in Spanish (Brennan, 2020). By the time of her death in 1995, Selena was fluent in</li> </ul> </li></ul>	<b>10-15 Minutes</b>

Spanish after having a career singing in Spanish (Brennan, 2020). Selena won her first Grammy In 1993 for Best Mexican American Performance, similarly to Jiménez (Brennan, 2020). After her tragic death, her final album 'Dreaming of You' was released in the summer of 1995 and was the first Tejano album to top the charts in America (Brennan, 2020).

**Activity:**  
Rhythm Notation

**35 Minutes**



Whole note: 4 Beats

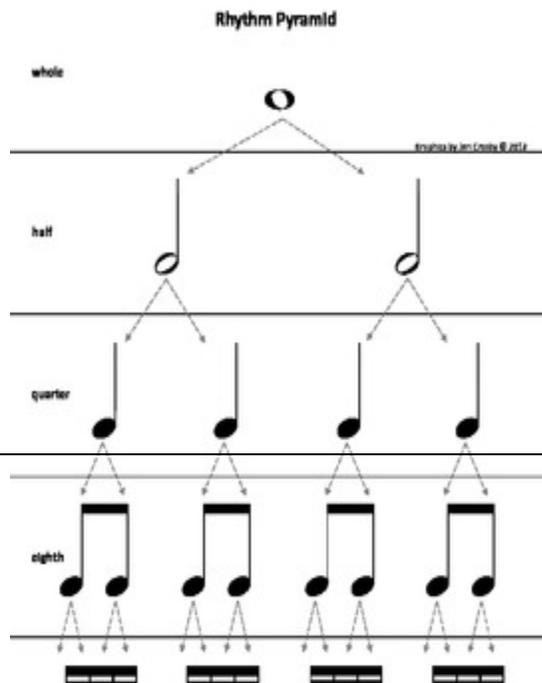
Half note: (2 + 2) beats

Quarter note: (1+1)+ (1+1) beats

Eighth note:  
[[ $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$ ] + [ $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$ ]] + [[ $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$ ] + [ $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$ ]]

Sixteenth note:  
[[ $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}$ ] + [ $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}$ ]] + [[ $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}$ ] + [ $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}$ ]] +  
[[ $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}$ ] + [ $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}$ ]] + [[ $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}$ ] + [ $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}$ ]]

**How to Count a Rhythm**



1 (2) (3) (4)\*

1 (2) 3 (4)

1 2 3 4

Rhythm breakdown:  
40-50 Min.

El pant...:  
10 Min.

Bidi Bidi...:  
10 Min.

1 te 2 te 3 te 4 te\*\*

1 ta te ta 2 ta te ta 3 ta te ta 4 ta te ta\*\*\*

\*counts that are in parenthesis are not clapped; when playing or singing the note, the pitch is held out for those counts.

\*\*The downbeats (start of the note/ clap) is shown by the number (1, 2, 3, 4) while the te represents the upbeat in order to split the beat in half. A down arrow is used to represent the downbeat and an up arrow is used to represent the upbeat.

\*\*\*the ta breaks the downbeat (1, 2, 3, 4) and the upbeat (te) each in half

Up and Down arrows can be useful when counting out eighth notes (two down arrows for the down beat and two up arrows for the upbeat for sixteenth notes).

Whole, half, and quarter notes will have one down arrow for each count.

Flaco Jiménez ~ El Pantalón Blue Jean

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vP34ubBZQB0>

Verse 1:

Todas las muchachas usan Pantalón (rest)

1 te 2 te 3 te 4 te 1 2 3 (4)

Es la nueva moda y tie-nen razón (rest)

1 te 2 te 3 te 4 te 1 2 3 (4)

Selena Quintanilla ~ Bidi Bidi Bom Bom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aP9mKAZUnhI>

Chorus:

Bidi Bidi Bom Bom (Bidi Bidi Bom Bom) x2

1 ta te ta 2 te 3 ta te ta 4 te

Bidi Bidi Bidi Bidi Bidi Bom Bom x2

1 ta te ta 2 ta te ta 3 ta te 4

Optional Game:

Have one student clap out a rhythm and then have the whole class echo that clapping rhythm. Then try to figure out what rhythm that student created based on counting out the rhythm using whole, half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes.

**Wrap up:** What was your favorite part of the activity? Was there anything that could have been done better? What other activities would you like to do in the future?

**5 Minutes**

**Discussions questions:**

- How does German folk music sound similar to Tejano Music? Do the two genres of music have any instruments in common?
- Which rhythm is faster: a quarter note or an eighth note?
- How does music use math to create rhythm?
- What other songs have similar rhythms to Flaco Jimenez and Selena’s music?
- How does 3/ 4 Time feel different from 4/ 4 Time?

*Vocabulary:*

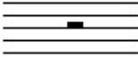
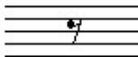
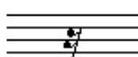
- **Common Time or 4/4:** when there are 4 beats (quarter note length) in a measure (group of notes)
- **Whole Note:** a note that lasts for four beats
- **Half Note:** a note that lasts for two beats
- **Quarter Note:** a note that lasts for one beat
- **Eight Note:** a note that splits a beat in to two halves; one eighth note is on the downbeat, and the second eighth note is on the upbeat
- **Sixteenth Note:** a note that splits a beat into four parts; two sixteenth notes are on the down beat and last two sixteenth notes are on the upbeat
- **Downbeat:** the start of a beat
- **Tempo:** how fast/ slow a song sounds (fast tempo: quick, fast paced; slow tempo: slow, lullaby)
- **Verse:** a part of a song that has the same melody but the words change each time
- **Chorus:** the main section of a song that is repeated after each verse
- **Reciprocal:** when the numerator (top number in a fraction) and the denominator (bottom number in a fraction) are flipped

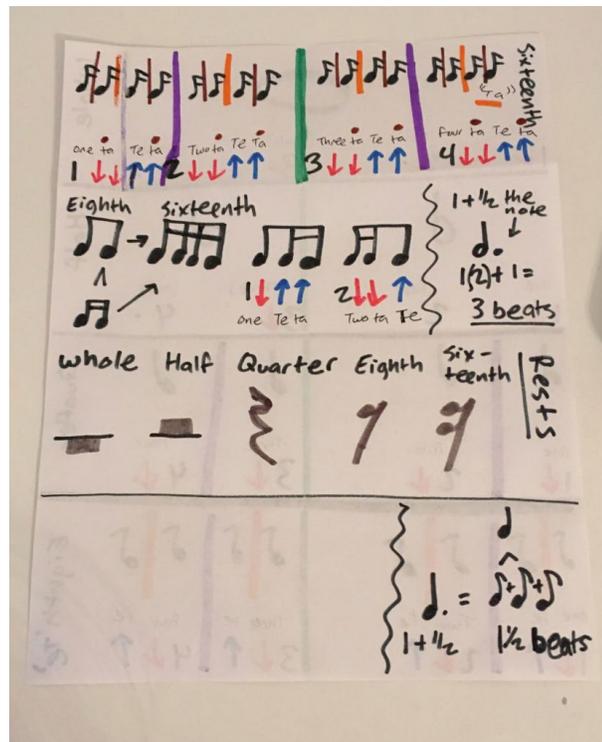
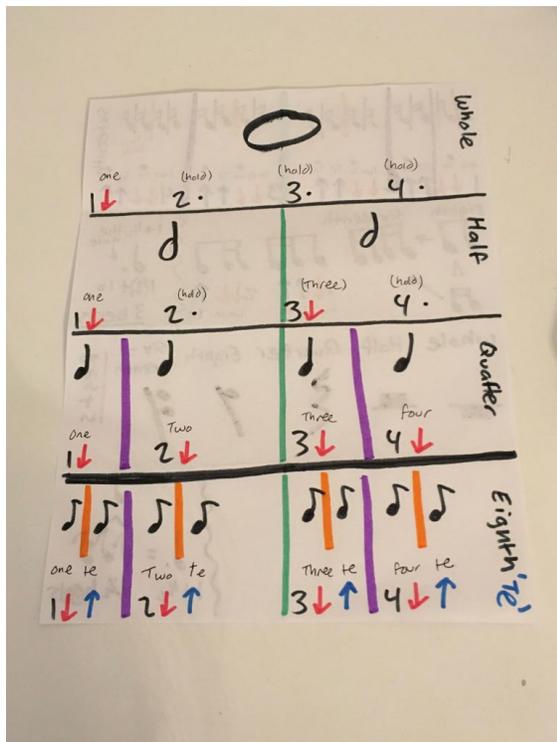
**Preparation:** Instructor should pick a few songs before hand and write out the notation to have an idea of how to count out the rhythm.

### References

- “At the Sicilian Market,” *YouTube*, uploaded by Trabant 33 – Topic, 10 April 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRgou9Uspvk>. **[3/ 4 Time – Waltz]**
- Brennan, Sandra. “Selena,” *ALL MUSIC*, 2020, <https://www.allmusic.com/artist/selena-mn0000004852/biography>.
- “Bidi Bidi Bom Bom,” *YouTube*, uploaded by Selena OFFICIAL, 27 March 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aP9mKAZUuhl>.
- Deming, Mark. “Flaco Jiménez”, *ALL MUSIC*, 2020, <https://www.allmusic.com/artist/flaco-jim%C3%A9nez-mn0000179335/biography>.
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- Musical Magic. “Rhythm Pie - Music and Math Integration Lessons, Activities & Printables,” *Teachers Pay Teachers*, accessed 1 October 2020, <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Rhythm-Pie-Music-and-Math-Integration-Lessons-Activities-Printables-419128>.
- Schroer, Craig. “The Roots of Tejano and Conjunto Music,” *The University of Texas at Austin*, 5 March 2004, <https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/benson/border/arhoolie2/raices.html>.

"What Are The Kinds of Notes And Rests Used in Music," *Blurt it*, accessed 9 October 2020, <https://education.blurtit.com/1232294/what-are-the-kinds-of-notes-and-rests-in-used-in-music>.

Name	Note	Rest	Length
Whole Note			4 beats
Half Note			2 beats
Quarter Note			1 beat
Eighth Note			1/2 beat
Sixteenth Note			1/4 beat



Day One: Greeting - 10 Min., Introduction – 10 Min., Rhythm notation - 20-25 Min., El Pantalón... - 10 Min., Wrap up – 5 Min.

Day Two: Greeting - 10 Min., Introduction/ Recap – 10 Min., Rhythm notation - 20-25 Min., Bidi Bidi Bom Bom - 10 Min., Wrap up – 5 Min.