

Key concepts

- Samba is a Brazilian music genre.
- It has its roots in Africa, via the West African slave trade and African religious traditions.
- Samba sometimes uses silence as part of the structure of the piece.
- Samba music does not have a melody, as it played on untuned percussion instruments.
- Samba music is described as 'the sound of the carnival'.
- Samba is played with a steady pulse, in a syncopated rhythm.
- A metronome is used to help keep the pulse.
- Samba music often includes a musical break, when some players stop playing.
- The leader of a samba band will use a whistle to be heard above the noise.

A Samba Band

A samba band usually consists of the following instruments:

Tambourim

A tamborim is a small, round Brazilian frame drum of Portuguese and African origin.



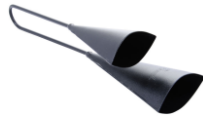
Caixa

A Caixa is a type of snare drum and produces a sharp, staccato sound.



Agogo

Single or multiple bells. Agogo bells may be the oldest samba instrument.



Ganza

A rattle filled with beads or pebbles.



Surdo

A large bass drum. This is the drum that marks the time.



Key Vocabulary

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|-------------------|---|
| structure | The arrangement of different sections within the whole piece. |
| texture | Refers to the layers of sound in a piece of music. |
| tuned | An instrument that can make different notes. |
| untuned | An instrument with no definite pitch, such as a bass drum. |
| percussion | The striking of one solid object with or against another |
| dynamics | How loud or soft the music is (volume) |
| Syncopated rhythm | Playing on the 'off-beat' |
| pulse | The steady, regular beat of the music |
| metronome | A device that sets a regular rhythm. |
| break | When some instruments stop playing |

Things to do at home

Next time you watch a football match on television, see if you can hear the sounds of a samba band in the crowd....nearly every team has one!

Listen out for the Leader's whistle.

The Brazilian National Football Team's official Samba Band

