



## Activities Chart

Listed below are some suggestions for activities and their appropriate age levels.

Activity	k-2	3-4	5-8
Watch tapes showing dances	x	x	x
Bailar Command game	x	x	x
Escuchar Conjugations game	x	x	x
Merengue dancing	x	x	x
Dance freeze	x	x	x

## Activities Explanation

**Dance videos-**If you can arrange with your local school to have a VCR, bring in some videos (you can check them out from the library!) of people doing various Latin dances. Show your class and explain the various dances.

**Bailar Command Game-**After going over basic conjugations of bailar (good for all 'ar verbs!) this is a great/fun review. On various pieces of paper write the terms Yo, Tu, El, Ella, Usted, Ustedes, and Nosotros. Make enough so that each student has a term. (They can repeat.) You will call out a conjugation of bailar. Example: Bailo and everyone who has Yo will dance. Each name you called will keep dancing until you have called out all of the conjugations and the whole class is dancing!

**Escuchar Conjugations Game-**Explain to your class what escuchar means and how to conjugate it. If you have already covered bailar, this should be easy! Draw a picture of a radio onto two pieces of paper. Then divide the class into two teams. Have them stand into two single file lines. Give the first person in each line a pen/marker. When you say start, they need to pass back the radio while each person writes a form of escuchar + a type of music. Example: The first person writes: Yo escucho salsa. The second person can write tu escuchas rock. Whichever team finishes first with correct conjugations and types of music wins! If you have an uneven number of students, you can have the extra student time or correct the teams' answers.

**Dance Freeze-** Go to the library and check out various cds or tapes of flamenco music, rock, classical, salsa, merengue and jazz. Play each of them to your class and explain the differences. Once you think your class understands the difference clear a large space in the classroom and explain this game. You are going to put on different types of music and so the students will need to listen very closely. They



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will start dancing (in place!) and you will call out the name of a type of music and freeze. Example: Salsa freeze! If the music is NOT salsa whoever stopped dancing has to sit down. Keep doing this while changing types of music until only one student is left standing. You can always bring that student a small prize!

**Merengue Lesson**-Read the Notas Culturales regarding Merengue to your class and then teach the dance. It is so fun and easy! They can partner with friends or even practice at their space by themselves. The description of the steps for entire dance is: Step side, drag to close, Step side, drag to close or Step forward (or back), drag to close. ¡Qué fácil! Always changes weight as you step to the side and as you roll your foot. There are three basic movements—the Side Movement, the Forward Movement, and the Back Movement. A move is 8 steps. Usually the girls face the boys and complement their steps. Example: If the boy moves his left foot forward, the girl will move her right foot back. -This is the opposite of what he is doing and prevents stepping on toes! Stand up very straight and keep the movement in your lower body! Have fun!

**Side Movement**-Partner #1 waits to start with his/her weight on the right leg. On the first beat he/she steps left onto the inside edge of his/her left foot. On the half beat, he/she rolls his left foot (puts the foot flat on the floor) and changes weight onto it. On the next beat using the inside edge of the foot, he drags the right foot to close, returning to the start position. Partner #2 does the complimentary steps. Side right, drag to close left.

**Forward Basic Movement**-Partner #1 starts with his/her weight on the right leg. On the first beat he/she steps left slightly forward onto the inside edge of his/her left foot. On the half beat, he/she rolls his/her left foot (puts the foot flat on the floor) and changes weight onto it. On the next beat, he/she drags the right foot forward to close, returning to the start position. Partner #2 does the complimentary steps.-The Back Movement.

**Back Basic Movement**-Partner #1 starts with his/hr weight on the right leg. On the first beat he/she steps slightly back onto the inside edge of his/her left foot. On the half beat, he/she rolls his/her left foot (puts the foot flat on the floor) and changes weight onto it. On the next beat, he/she drags the right foot back to close, returning to the start position. Partner #2 does the complimentary steps - the Forward Movement.

**After you go over the steps, put on the merengue music and have fun!**

*You can also teach the Macarena for fun too!*