

# Making Movies

## Teacher Resource Guide Lotus Blossoms 2026



## About Making Movies

Making Movies is a dynamic band located in Kansas City, Missouri that blends Afro-Latino rhythms and rock 'n' roll with African-derived percussion and styles like rumba, merengue, mambo, and cumbia.

The band members are : Juan-Carlos Chaurand (percussion), Enrique Chi (songwriter/vocals/guitar), and newcomer Duncan Burnett (drums). The members of Making Movies come from Panama, Mexico, and the US. Rooted in diverse musical backgrounds, they aim to create music that embraces their individual identities and serves as a healing force. They are passionately committed to exploring music history and connecting genres and cultures.

Enrique Chi wants to share cultural knowledge while recognizing the endless possibilities in musical exploration. The band's quest for musical exploration has led to collaborations with legendary musicians from around the world!

## Instruments

### Mejoranera

The mejoranera is a small guitar-like instrument from Panama, often carved from a single piece of wood. It has five strings and makes a warm, plucky sound often heard in Panamanian folk songs and dances. Long ago, people made its strings from reeds or horsehair, but today they use nylon.



## Cajón [ka-hon or ka-hone]

The cajón is a percussion instrument that originated in Peru. The word "cajón" means "box" or "crate" in Spanish, and the instrument is essentially a wooden box with one side partially open. The player sits on the top surface of the box and strikes the front or rear surface with their hands, fingers, or various percussion implements to produce a variety of sounds.



## Conga Drum

The Conga drum is a narrow, single-head hand drum that can come in many different sizes and diameters<sup>1</sup>. Traditionally made from olive barrels, this



percussion instrument originated in the enslaved African Bantu-speaking communities of Cuba in the 17th and 18th centuries. The conga is considered the cornerstone of Latin rhythms, and was popularized by drum-centric rumba music in the 19th century. The conga is also known as tumbadora, timba, or jícamo in Cuba. A conga player is called a conguero if they are a man or conguera if they are a woman.

## Cross Culture Collaboration

The members of Making Movies come from Panama, Mexico, and the US, bringing a unique blend of instruments like guitars, bass, percussion, keys, and drums to the music scene. The band explores the multicultural experience of the Latinx generation, delivering positive messages of self-identification and respect for their heritage.

## Latinx

Latinx is the gender-neutral alternative to Latina or Latino. It is a term used to describe a diverse group of people who have roots in Latin America.

## Fun Facts

### Panama

- Capital: Panama City
- Primary Language: Spanish
- Currency: Balboa
- Population: 4.5 Million



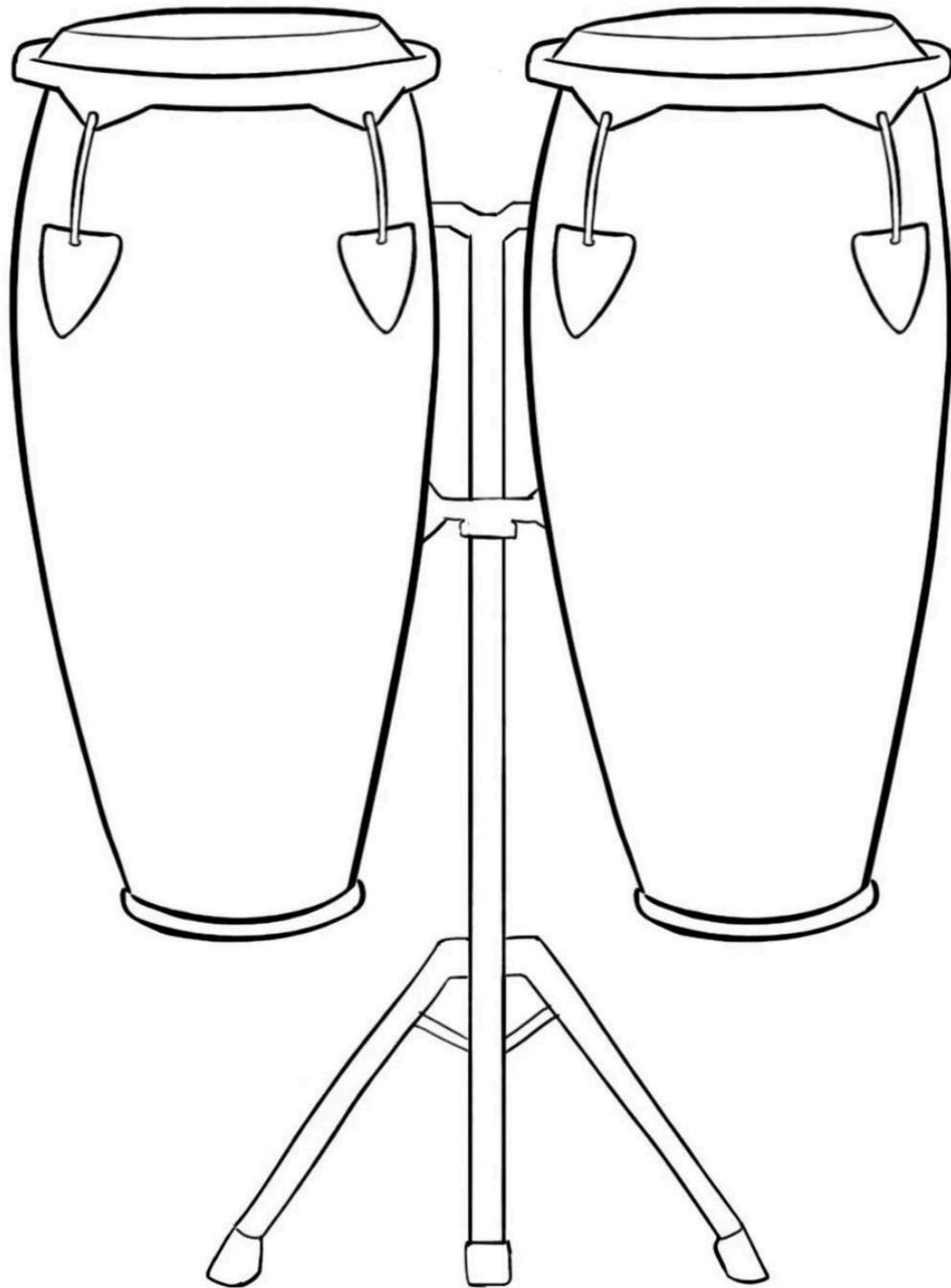
### Mexico

- Capital: Mexico City
- Primary Language: Spanish
- Currency: Peso
- Population: 132 Million

For more information about Making Movies visit:

- Website: [Making Movies](#)
- Facebook: [Making Movies](#)
- Instagram: [Making Movies](#)

# Conga Drums



## Making Movies Word Find

T Z U F G X G L C T X R O C E  
E S P E R C U S S I O N X U I  
B P Q F W Q T I H Q D B Q M B  
V V R Y V X D S M K B T B B D  
A U J D J F M U X A N E G I K  
O L F O I A R D F J M J W A Y  
P P R L J M E B Y T E B R O A  
U M J E B A R A R V P D O C I  
O W M M W N U B J T R R V I R  
X U V E M A L M X O L Y P X R  
Y I X P R P U U T M O J P E Q  
W O F A U E Y R A R X T J M J  
A W V O F P G O G D S V L E R  
T Q F Q Y C T U J C C T L R T  
V X U L I B I I E Z C A J O N

**CAJON**

**MAMBO**

**MELODY**

**MEREGUE**

**RUMBA**

**PERCUSSION**

**CUMBIA**

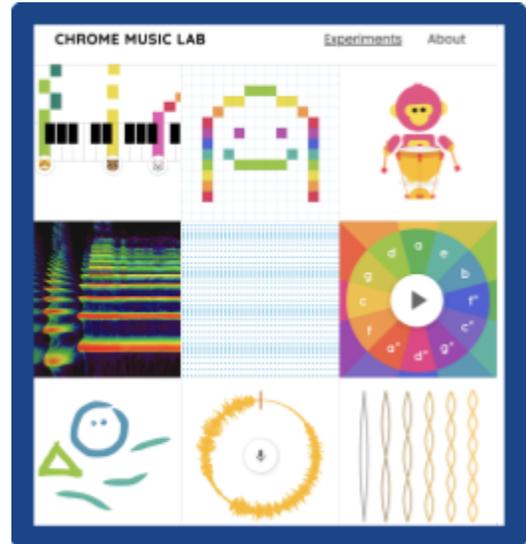
**MEXICO**

**PANAMA**

## STEAM Activity - Chrome Music Lab

### See Sound in Action!

Chrome Music Lab is a free, web-based collection of interactive experiments that makes music more accessible and fun to learn. It uses hands-on, visual activities to help users explore concepts like rhythm, pitch, and chords.



**Visit: [musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/Experiments](https://musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/Experiments)**

No need to create an account or download an app, only an internet browser is needed to access Chrome Music Lab. Chrome Music Lab also works on tablet devices.

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