Cuba At the Crossroads
Lesson 1
90 Millas Eleguá

Introduction

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. Today, the United States of America is changing its relationship with the people of Cuba. In the most significant changes in our policy in more than fifty years, we will end an outdated approach that, for decades, has failed to advance our interests, and instead we will begin to normalize relations between our two countries. Through these changes, we intend to create more opportunities for the American and Cuban people, and begin anew chapter among the nations of the Americas. There's a complicated history between the United States and Cuba.

The White House Office of the Press Secretary, December 17, 2014

Since the White House announcement, there has been a flurry of interest among US citizens to travel to Cuba and develop new business opportunities. What do North Americans really know about their neighbors to the south? Desi Arnaz, the bongo-playing musician on I Love Lucy, introduced a generation to Cuban music. We have listened to grandparents’ stories about vacation stays at the Hotel Nacional in Havana. We learn about Guantanamo, Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, the Bay of Pigs, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the embargo in school, but what else do we know about our neighbors to the south? For the last 3 decades, Gloria Estefan has been introducing us to the rhythms of Cuban culture infused with the nostalgic sentiments of a Cuban-American. In Lesson 1 90 Millas Eleguá, students will explore Cuban culture from the Cuban-American perspective of singer Gloria Estefan.

Essential Questions for Lessons I Activities 1-5

- How do artists express their most important political views?
- How can we learn about the history and culture of a country through music?
- What are examples of the African influence in Cuban culture?
- What factors contributed to a break in Cuban-US relations?
- What are the push-pull factors for immigration?
- How do immigrants express patriotism?

Objectives

Students will:
- locate Cuba on a map
- listen to Oprah Winfrey’s interview with Gloria Estefan
- read and respond to questions about Cuban immigrants in the United States
- read and discuss a case study about a Cuban refugee family
- identify Cuban music genres, instruments and rhythmic cells
- listen to Gloria Estefan’s songs that highlight the African contributions to Cuban music and express nostalgia for the island
- read and respond to questions about Santería
• watch Katie Couric’s interview with Gloria and Emilio Estefan in which they discuss their Cuban roots, immigration, and their Broadway musical, *On Your Feet*
• write a concluding essay that reflects the Lesson 1 essential questions

**Materials**

All Around This World  
[https://www.allaroundthisworld.com/listen/latin-american-songs-for-kids/](https://www.allaroundthisworld.com/listen/latin-american-songs-for-kids/)

Debry and Le Moyne Map of Florida and Cuba  


*Gloria Estefan on Oprah’s Next Chapter:*  
Part 1 [https://youtu.be/Dms1TMlMBf0](https://youtu.be/Dms1TMlMBf0) (11:46); Part 2 [https://youtu.be/WZPK1LBEnE](https://youtu.be/WZPK1LBEnE) (8:00); Part 3 [https://youtu.be/-fhA67i27oM](https://youtu.be/-fhA67i27oM) (6:53); Part 4 [https://youtu.be/-0k7wFQjJbw](https://youtu.be/-0k7wFQjJbw) (6:50); Part 5 [https://youtu.be/Dq6R9m2YraU](https://youtu.be/Dq6R9m2YraU) (4:50); Part 6 [https://youtu.be/g25t49OYKJQ](https://youtu.be/g25t49OYKJQ) (3:16)

Gloria Estefan Official Fan TV  
[https://www.youtube.com/user/GloriaEstefanMusic](https://www.youtube.com/user/GloriaEstefanMusic)


"OrishaNet." [http://www.orishanet.org](http://www.orishanet.org) Spanish and English

World Music Network Cuba/ Son and Afro-Cuban Music — Guide To World Music  

**Activity Sheets**

Activity 1 Biography of Gloria Estefan  
Activity 2 Homework: *Harvest of Empire: Cubans as Special Refugees*  
Activity 3 Homework: The Del Rosario Family  
Activity 4 The Cuban beat  
Actividad 4 En español  
Activity 5 Essay
**Suggested Readings and Multimedia**


See extension activities for more resources.

**Assessment**

Class participation
Essay
Worksheet completion

**Extension Activities**

Activity 1:
Overviews of Cuba
Andy Garcia – I feel Cuba [https://youtu.be/LDamBL5lJyA](https://youtu.be/LDamBL5lJyA)
Orishas “Represent” [https://youtu.be/ZBoqCDSrWi8](https://youtu.be/ZBoqCDSrWi8) music video,
Orishas “ Cuba Isla Bella” [https://youtu.be/yqdWaWALZOs](https://youtu.be/yqdWaWALZOs) music video
Photos Weisenbach, E. Cuba, 2016 [https://youtu.be/FlhBKRUNF70](https://youtu.be/FlhBKRUNF70)
Spanish Poem- “Habanasis” – Richard Blanco

Activity 2-3:


Activity 4:
Fernandez, Lynn. *Es complicado: Reflexiones de identidad en la música del Caribe*

**PowerPoint for Es complicado**. Introduction to Caribbean music; explores how music tells the story of the evolution of Caribbean identity. Retrieved: [http://peabody.yale.edu/sites/default/files/documents/education/Fernandez%202014%20Es%20Complicado%20Complete%20Unit.pdf](http://peabody.yale.edu/sites/default/files/documents/education/Fernandez%202014%20Es%20Complicado%20Complete%20Unit.pdf)

Latin Music USA- Explore the Music- Watch the Show: Chapter 2 “Only in New York Machito and his Afro-Cubans” a fusion of African American big band with Cuban rhythms. Retrieved:
Activity 4.3:
Cuban Son and Afro Cuban Music [http://www.worldmusic.net/guide/music-of-cuba/]
- African roots — video of Cuba Music Trinidad Santeria,
- Afro-Cuban Rumba - Los Munequitos de Matanzas- Yambú, Danzón, Charanga, and the Chachachá,
- The Sound of the Son, Music and the Revolution

Activity 4.4:
Additional information about the conga, Emilio Estefan, the Miami Sound Machine, and the explosion of Latin music.
- Can be used in place of activity 4.8.

Activity 4.5:
Additional videos that reflect African contributions to Cuban culture and Santería:
- Gloria Estefan [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/latinmusicusa/legends/gloria-emilio-estefan/]
- Celia Cruz “Ochun con Chango” [https://youtu.be/V5mtRLYXm4o]
- Celia Cruz “Elegua Quiere Tamor” [https://youtu.be/jldHdA8Mlic]
- Celia Cruz “Saludo a Elegua” [https://youtu.be/gXbxAsW7k94]
- Celia Cruz con Willie Colon “Un bembé pa’ Yemaya” [https://youtu.be/ecNdmePMopA]
- Hector Lavoe “Para ochun y yemaya” [https://youtu.be/H0wzTowTSik]
- Orishas “Naci Orishas” [https://youtu.be/UJRI-rHxHE]

Pair Gloria Estefan’s song 90 Millas: “Morenita” [https://youtu.be/1OnZpcuShF0] or “Caridad” [https://youtu.be/yIKNyunn5pk] with reading a legend about La Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre (Online at The Cuban History.com available in English) [http://www.thecubanhistory.com/2015/06/our-lady-of-charity-of-el-cobre-the-whole-story-nuestra-virgen-de-la-caridad-del-cobre-su-historia/]

Legend about the Virgin of Caridad, Spanish.

Poems by Nicolás Guillen.


Activity 4.7:
Watch Making of “No Llores” video https://youtu.be/wGg8zyEu57w

Activity 4.8:
Katie Couric discusses immigration with the Estefans

Activity 4.9:
10 videos dedicated to emigrants – where ever they might be. “Diez canciones cubanas dedicadas a los emigrados (dondequiera que estén).”- Ciber Cuba

- Gloria Esteban- “Mi Tierra”;
- David Torrens- “Ni de aquí, ni de allá”;
- Habana Abierta- “Cuando Salí de La Habana”;
- Carlos Varela- “De vuelta a Casa”;
- Celia Cruz- “Por si acaso no regreso”;
- Luis Aguilé- “Cuando salí de Cuba”;
- Raul Paz- “En Casa”;
- Habana Blues- “En todas partes”;
- Gerardo Alfonso- “Amigos”;
- Willy Chirino- “Cuba linda”
Instructions for Lesson 1: Cuba at the Crossroads -90 Millas-Eleguá

Step 1:
Activity 1.1-1.3 Distribute student activity sheets then
• review the list of essential questions
• locate Cuba on a map
• generate a conversation about famous Latin personalities, favorite Latin musicians, and general questions about Gloria Estefan.
• listen to Oprah Winfrey’s interview with Gloria
• direct students to summarize the information in a paragraph

Step 2:
Activity 2.1-2.3 Homework
• Assign Harvest of Empire: Cubans as Special Refugees, pages 108-113 and worksheets 2.1-2.3 .
• Discuss Operation Peter Pan (see extension activity).

Step 3:
• Review worksheet responses.
• Divide class into small groups to read and discuss the Del Rosario family experiences Activity 3.1-3.2.
• Discuss current global migration trends and US policies towards immigrants, child immigration and refugees.
• Assign Activity 3.3 for homework to be reviewed the next day.

Step 4:
• Introduce music activities that will familiarize students with genres of Cuban music, instruments and rhythmic cells.
• Distribute worksheets for Activities 4.1-4.3.

Note: Implementation of these activities will depend on time constraints, class size, and access to internet. If time is a factor, reduce the number of genres to study in Activity 4.1; focus on conga, mambo, rumba, salsa, and son. Another option is to select some of the genres, instruments and rhythmic cells to be completed in class and some for homework.

Step 5:
Activity 4.4
• Distribute student activity sheets for Activities 4.4. and 4.5.
• Listen to and discuss “Conga”, “Morenita” and “90 Millas: Elegua”, three songs that reflect Afro-Cuban Rhythms.
• Assign Activity 4.5 Santería to be completed for homework.

Lyrics
90 Millas: “Morenita” - Spanish only http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/gloriaestefan/morenita.html
90 Millas: "90 Millas"- Spanish only http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/gloriaestefan/90millas.html

Step 6:
• Discuss homework Activity 4.5 Santería.
• Distribute student activity sheets for Activities 4.6 - 4.8.
• Activity 4.6 Select a song or songs that express Cuban American nostalgia for the island such as, “Tradición”, “Montuno”, or “Mi Tierra”.
• Watch and discuss Andy Garcia’s moving words that are set to a visual overview of Cuba. [https://youtu.be/LDamBl5JvJIA](https://youtu.be/LDamBl5JvJIA)

Lyrics

**Mi Tierra**: “Montuno” [http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/gloriaestefan/montuno.html](http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/gloriaestefan/montuno.html)
[http://www.lyricsmode.com/lyrics/g/gloria_estefan/montuno.html](http://www.lyricsmode.com/lyrics/g/gloria_estefan/montuno.html)

**Mi Tierra**: “Mi Tierra” [http://www.ooltra.net/Lyrics.php?a=GloriaEstefan&s=MiTierra](http://www.ooltra.net/Lyrics.php?a=GloriaEstefan&s=MiTierra)

**Mi Tierra**: “Tradición” [http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/gloriaestefan/tradicion.html](http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/gloriaestefan/tradicion.html)

Activity 4.7
• Listen to “Abriendo Puertas” or ‘Hablemos el Mismo Idioma” and discus how Estefan suggests reaching out to others.
• Assign additional songs for homework.

Lyrics


**Mi Tierra**: “Hablemos el Mismo Idioma” [http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/gloriaestefan/hablemoselmismoidioma.html](http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/gloriaestefan/hablemoselmismoidioma.html)

Step 7:
Activity 4.7 and 4.8
• Review songs assigned for 4.7 homework.
• Listen to Gloria Estefan sing “No Llores” then watch the Estefan- Pitbull version.
• Watch Gloria Estefan introduce us to some of the greatest Latin American musicians who collaborated on *90 Millas* “90 Millas- the Documentary”. Gloria Estefan Official Fan TV [https://youtu.be/ivf2zJcdS8](https://youtu.be/ivf2zJcdS8)
• Assign Activity 4.8 for homework. Students will listen to Katie Couric interview the Estefans about their Cuban roots and respond to questions.

Lyrics

**90 Millas**: “No Llores” [http://www.ooltra.net/Lyrics.php?a=GloriaEstefan&s=NoLlores](http://www.ooltra.net/Lyrics.php?a=GloriaEstefan&s=NoLlores) English/Spanish Pitbull version

Talking points for “No Llores” with Pitbull
Images in the video to look for that highlight Cuban culture
• Geography- map of Cuba, beach, ocean
• Music- drums, guiro, guitar
• Pre-revolutionary and Revolutionary Cuba- old cars, Che Guevara, Cuban flag
• Religion- Gloria makes sign of the cross, Virgen de la Caridad del Cobre, Santera beads
• Leisure activities/daily life- dancing, playing dominoes, guayabera shirts
• Economy- sugar, cigars
• Miami Beach- Calle 8, Little Havana
Musical greats who collaborated on *90 Millas*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrumentalist</th>
<th>Instrument</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Candido Camero</td>
<td>conga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy García</td>
<td>bongos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orestes Vilato</td>
<td>timbales, bongos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheila E.</td>
<td>timbales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luis Enrique</td>
<td>congos and bongos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Giovanni Hidalgo</td>
<td>percussionist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sal Cuevas</td>
<td>bass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Israel &quot;Cachao&quot; López</td>
<td>double base</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nelson González</td>
<td>tres</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carlos Santana</td>
<td>electric guitar</td>
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<tr>
<td>José Feliciano</td>
<td>acoustic guitar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papo Lucca</td>
<td>piano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnny Pacheco</td>
<td>flute</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paquito d’Rivera</td>
<td>saxophone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Generoso Jiménez</td>
<td>trombone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arturo Sandoval</td>
<td>Jazz trumpet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La India</td>
<td>singer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Step 8:
Activity 4.9
- Review homework responses.
- Distribute student activity sheets for Activity 4.9.
- Complete Activity 4.9 about hopes for a free Cuba.

Lyrics


Step 9:
Activity 4.10
- Direct students to computer lab.
- Listen to “Esperando (Cuando Cuba Sea Libre)”
- Use the internet to complete the student activity sheet.

Lyrics
*90 Millas* “Esperando Cuando Cuba Sea Libre”

Step 10:
Activity 5
Assign essay in which students will demonstrate what they have learned about Cuban culture, the African influences on Cuban religion and music, the push-pull factors for migration, Cuban American nostalgia and how we can study music in order to feel the rhythm of a culture.
Note to the Spanish Teacher:
The following readings and videos can be used in intermediate and advanced Spanish classes.

Gloria Estefan interview with María Elvira Salazar, Published on May 9, 2019
https://youtu.be/lnOjOChJtsk
En la entrevista Gloria Estefan habla sobre las Damas de Blanco, sobre otros artistas y sus posiciones políticas, sobre el no poder ir a cantar a Cuba, sobre su relación con varios presidentes norteamericanos de los dos partidos políticos más numerosos en EE.UU., entre otros asuntos muy interesantes.

Music videos about migrants:
- “Diez canciones cubanas dedicadas a los emigrados (dondequiera que estén)” - Ciber Cuba
  - Gloria Esteban- “Mi Tierra”;
  - David Torrens- “Ni de aquí, ni de allá”;
  - Habana Abierta- “Cuando Salí de La Habana”;
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  - Willy Chirino- “Cuba linda”

Afro-Cuban Culture
  - Capítulo 4 Lectura: El sabor africano del Caribe
- Poems by Nicolás Guillén. “Sensemayá”
  http://www.writing.upenn.edu/library/Guillen-Nicolas_Sensemaya.pdf
- “Mulata”, “Canto Negro”, “Negro Bembón”
  http://www.afrocubaweb.com/nicolasguillen.htm

Santería