

Name: _____

Analyzing a Song

Instructions: Like any type of artist, musicians combine a number of techniques in their songs. Studying the elements that they incorporate can reveal a song's meaning. Use the definitions and questions about specific musical elements to guide your analysis of your assigned version of "Que Bloco é Esse?" Be sure to visually represent at least one of the elements defined below in your music map.

Instrumentation

Definition: The instruments and characteristics of each instrument used in a piece of music.

Questions: What instruments do you hear? Are they loud or soft? Does the song have a dense, heavy sound or a sparse, light sound? How does the instrumentation change throughout the song? What emotions do the instruments make you feel?

Tempo

Definition: The speed of the music.

Questions: Is the song fast or slow? Does the tempo remain the same throughout the song, or does it slow down or speed up?

Rhythm

Definition: A pattern of musical sounds.

Questions: What types of rhythms does the song use? Do the rhythms repeat throughout the song, or are there varying types of rhythms used throughout? Do different instruments play different rhythms? Do the rhythms used in this song remind you of the rhythms from other songs you know?

Lyrics

Definition: The words of a song.

Questions: What is the overarching message of the lyrics? What emotions do they make you feel? Do certain lyrics or sections of lyrics repeat? What does this tell you about the song's structure? What topics do the lyrics address? Based on the lyrics, what type of song do you think this is (for example, romantic, political, or religious)?

Genre

Definition: A category that groups together pieces of music based on a set of shared conventions. For example, jazz, hip hop, folk are musical genres.

Questions: Does this song remind you of other songs you know? What characteristics does this song share with other songs you know? What genre of music might this song belong to?