



Senwa dedende

Traditional Ghanaian – [from the Sing Up Song Bank](#)

This is a section of a much longer narrative song about a lazy vulture who builds his nest and when the rains come he can't remember where he built it.

YEAR GROUP	YEAR 3 - 6
PARTS	OPTIONAL 4 PART ROUND
SONG STYLE	TRADITIONAL SONG
RANGE	MEDIUM: AROUND AN OCTAVE
ACCOMPANIMENT	UNACCOMPANIED
MUSICAL ELEMENTS	ROUND/CANON
CURRICULUM	PERFORMING SKILLS, AURAL MEMORY, LISTENING SKILLS. EXPLORING MOVEMENT



Getting started

- Try a few warm-up activities (see activity 2).
- Listen to the performance track and pay attention to the words and the layering of voices in the round.

Learning the song

- Sing the song through. It is a gentle melody so encourage quiet, smooth singing from the outset.
- Clap the rhythm of the first two bars, 'senwa dedende sen-wa' and ask the children how many times they can hear that rhythm pattern. The answer is three times. It is useful for the children to begin to understand how songs are structured.
- Which line has a different pattern? Clap the rhythm quietly all the way through as you sing.
- Try humming the tune through – this will also encourage gentle singing.
- Ensure that the melody is quite secure before trying it in a round.

Developing music making

- Explore ways of adding simple accompaniment patterns. A small drum could keep the pulse; divide the first phrase between Indian bells to play 'Senwa dedende' and a tambourine to play 'Senwa'.
- Make up a circle dance. Walk around on the beat (2 bars), turn and walk the other way (2 bars), join hands and step in (1 bar) step out (1 bar), turn on the spot (2 bars).
- When you are confident enough to sing this as a round it works very well to have everyone just walking in and out of each other as they sing so all the parts mix together. You need to be quite confident to do this but it produces a beautiful effect.



Check out this song on the Sing Up Song Bank and register for free as a Sing Up Friend to download all your classroom extras:

- Performance track, backing tracks & echo tracks
- Lyrics, Whiteboard mode, sheet music, accompaniment & melody/harmony lines
- Curriculum-linked activities, tailor-made teaching resources & SEN resources.



Farmers in Astuare region, Ghana
Chris Young/Oxfam



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♩ = 120

MELODY

Sen-wa de-den - de, sen - wa. Sen-wa de-den - de, sen - wa.

5

Sen-wa de-den - de, sen-wa de-den - de, sen-wa de-den - de, sen - wa.

2 part round

1

Sen-wa de-den - de, sen - wa. Sen-wa de-den - de, sen - wa.

2

Sen-wa de-den - de, sen - wa. Sen-wa de-den - de,

Optional two parts for 4 part round (at the half bar)

3

Sen-wa de - den - de, sen - wa. Sen-wa de - den - de, sen -

4

Sen-wa de - den - de, sen - wa. Sen-wa de -

4

Sen-wa de-den - de, sen-wa de-den - de, sen-wa de-den - de, sen - wa.

sen - wa. Sen-wa de-den - de, sen-wa de-den - de, sen-wa de-den - de,

- wa. Sen-wa de - den - de, sen-wa de - den - de, sen-wa de - den - de, sen -

- den - de sen - wa. Sen-wa de - den - de, sen-wa de - den - de, sen-wa de -

8

Sen - wa de - den - de, sen - wa.

sen - wa. Sen - wa de - den - de, sen - wa.

- wa. Sen - wa de - den - de, sen - wa.

- den - de, sen - wa. Sen - wa de - den - de, sen - wa.

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