

Jamjari kkongkkong: Korean Dragonfly Song



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Before tablets, PCs, and smartphones were introduced in Korea, children played with games that are related to the nature around them, such as flowers, trees, pebbles, animals, and insects. There are numerous Korean traditional folk songs based on nature, and *Jamjari kkongkkong* (잠자리 콩콩) is one such example for kids.

Jamjari (잠자리) means "dragonfly" and *kkongkkong* (콩콩) is an expression that represents "to freeze/stop in place." Children used to sing the song, *Jamjari kkongkkong* (잠자리 콩콩) while chasing dragonflies, in hopes that a dragonfly will freeze in place so they can catch it.

Korean folk songs are written primarily with three to five tones; do, re, mi, so, and la. *Jamjari kkongkkong* is written with four tones: mi, so, la, and do', with solfege "la" (note A) as the tonal center. There are multiple variations of the song throughout different regions in Korea, although this version is the most common by far.

Different colors of dragonflies including red, green, black, and yellow can easily be found in Korea throughout late Summer and Fall. Teachers may introduce the different colors of dragonflies through the drum ostinato pattern.

 Jamjari kkongkkong

Trad. Korean Folk Song
Arr. Minhee Kim



The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has three staves: a vocal line, a drum line, and an accordion (AX) line. The vocal line includes lyrics in Korean and English. The drum line uses 'x' marks to indicate drum hits. The AX line shows chord progressions.

System 1:
 Vocal: Jam - ja - ri kkong - kkong kkom - ja - ri kkong - kkong
 Drum: Red, green, black and yel - low | Red, green, black and yel - low
 AX: Kkong kkong | dra - gon - fly

System 2:
 Vocal: i - ri - wa - ra kkong - kkong jeo - ri - ga - ra kkong - kkong
 Drum: Red, green, black and yel - low | Red, green, black and yel - low
 AX: Kkong kkong | dra - gon - fly

Translation & Pronunciation:

잠자리 뽕뽕	jamjari kkongkkong	Dragonfly freeze
뽕자리 뽕뽕	kkomjari* kkongkkong	Dragonfly freeze
이리와라 뽕뽕	iriwara kkongkkong	Fly here kkongkkong
저리가라 뽕뽕	jeorigara kkongkkong	Fly away kkongkkong

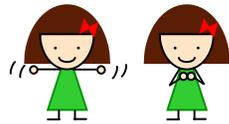
**kkomjari* is mixture of *jamjari* and *kkongkkong*; the first syllable of *jamjari* is changed to create a rhyme.

a	f <u>a</u> ther	i	s <u>ee</u>
o	g <u>o</u>	eo	d <u>o</u> g

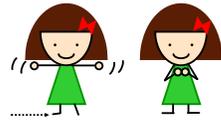
▪ Procedures:

1. Teacher sings the song with motions.
2. Teach the motions (Students imitate motions and listen to the Korean lyrics multiple times).

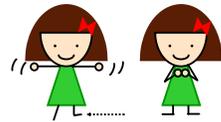
- *Jamjari kkongkkong* - flying motion and freeze (in place).



- *kkomjari kkongkkong* - repeat above.
- *iriwara kkongkkong* - two steps forward and freeze.



- *jeorigara kkongkkong* - two steps back and freeze.



3. Teach the song, phrase by phrase.
4. Speak "kkong kkong dra-gon-fly"  (patting hands on the laps) and transfer to alto xylophone (note A and E).
5. Introduce the different colors of dragonfly through the drum part. Have students speak "Red, green, black and yel-low"  (clapping the rhythms) and transfer to drum.
6. Divide class into three groups; one group for alto xylophone, another group for drum, and the other group for singing and motions.
7. Perform the entire piece as an ensemble.
 - Alto xylophone starts with 8 beat intro and then drum comes in (8 beat ostinato).
 - Sing the song two times with motions.