

Exploring World Music with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To identify and describe instruments and musical traditions from different cultures around the world.

Read the front of each flashcard to see the musical term or question. Flip to the back (after the pipe symbol) to check your answer and learn a fact about world music.

Djembe

A goblet-shaped drum from West Africa, played with bare hands to create different sounds like bass, tone, and slap.

Gamelan

A traditional musical ensemble from Indonesia, consisting mostly of bronze percussion instruments like gongs and metallophones.

What is a pentatonic scale?

A musical scale with only five notes per octave, often used in traditional folk music from China, Japan, and Scotland.

Samba

A lively, rhythmic style of music and dance that originated in Brazil, famously featured in the Rio Carnival.

Koto

A traditional Japanese stringed instrument that has 13 strings stretched over a long wooden body.

Steel Pan

A musical instrument originating from Trinidad and Tobago, made from oil drums that are tuned to play melodies.

What is an ensemble?

A group of musicians, actors, or dancers who perform together. Finn loves listening to large ensembles perform!

Rhythm

The pattern of regular or irregular pulses caused in music by the occurrence of strong and weak melodic and harmonic beats.

Culture

The ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society, which often influence the style of music they create.

Tradition

The transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation, such as songs passed down through families.

Which country is the Djembe from?

The Djembe is from West Africa.

True or False: All world music sounds the same.

False! World music is incredibly diverse because every culture has its own unique instruments, scales, and rhythms.