

Exploring Global Rhythms and Melodies

Learning objective: To identify musical instruments and traditions from around the world and understand how music connects different cultures.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of world music to answer in full sentences. Use the word bank to help you with terminology.

Word bank: Djembe · Sitar · Rhythm · Tradition · Steel Pan · Melody · Ensemble

1. Max the monkey is listening to a fast, upbeat song from the Caribbean. He hears a metallic, ringing sound coming from a 'steel pan'. Describe why a steel pan is unique compared to a wooden drum. (2 marks)

2. Zara the zebra is studying music from India. She learns about the sitar, a stringed instrument. How does a stringed instrument create a sound compared to a percussion instrument like a djembe? (2 marks)

3. Many world music traditions use 'call and response', where one person sings or plays a phrase and the group responds. Why do you think this is a popular way to perform music in a group? (2 marks)

4. If you were putting together an international music ensemble, which three instruments from different parts of the world would you choose and why? (3 marks)

5. Look at these prices for traditional instruments: A small djembe costs £45.50 and a set of wooden shakers costs £12.25. If Nova the owl buys both for her science class, what is the total cost? (2 marks)

Draw: Imagine you have invented a brand new musical instrument that combines features from two different cultures. Draw your instrument and label the parts that show where the inspiration came from.



Extension challenge: Research a musical tradition from a country you have never visited. Write three facts about the instruments they use and what kind of celebrations they play music for.