Exploring World Music with Max and Zara

Learning objective: To identify key musical instruments and styles from different cultures around the world.

Read the front of each flashcard to test your knowledge of world music. Turn the card over (or look at the answer provided) to check if you are correct!

What is a Djembe?

A rope-tuned skin-covered goblet drum played with bare hands, originally from West Africa.

Which country is the Sitar from?

India. It is a plucked string instrument used in Hindustani classical music.

Describe the Gamelan ensemble.

A traditional musical ensemble from Indonesia, featuring a variety of instruments such as metallophones, xylophones, and gongs.

What is a Didgeridoo?

A wind instrument developed by Indigenous Australians, known for its deep, resonant drone sound.

What is a pentatonic scale?

A musical scale with five notes per octave, often used in folk music traditions across the world including China and Scotland.

Define 'Rhythm' in world music.

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

What is 'Tempo'?

The speed at which a piece of music is played, which can vary greatly between different cultural styles.

Where does the steel pan originate?

Trinidad and Tobago. It is a musical instrument made from oil drums.

What is 'Cultural Heritage' in music?

The musical traditions, instruments, and styles passed down through generations within a specific community or country.

True or False: All world music uses the same Western major scale.

False. Different cultures use a wide variety of scales, tunings, and modes unique to their traditions.

What are 'call and response' songs?

A musical style where a leader sings or plays a phrase, and a group performs a direct answer or reply.

Why do musicians use percussion in many cultures?

To provide a steady beat for dancing, to signal communication, or to enhance storytelling and rituals.