Exploring Global Rhythms: A World Music Fact-File

Learning objective: To identify and describe the musical instruments, rhythms, and cultural significance of music from different parts of the world.

Choose a country or region you are interested in researching. Use your library or school resources to find out about their traditional music. Fill in this fact-file to show what you have discovered about the sounds and instruments that make that culture unique. Follow the prompts in each box to guide your research.

Word bank: rhythm · tempo · pitch · traditional · ensemble · percussion · melody · cultural · instrument · harmony

1. Geographical Origins: Which country or region are you investigating? Describe the location and the main language spoken there. (2 marks)

2. Traditional Instruments: Identify two instruments used in this region. Describe what they look like and how they are played (e.g., plucked, struck, or blown). (3 marks)

3. The Soundscape: How would you describe the music? Think about the speed (tempo), the volume, and whether the rhythm is simple or complex. (3 marks)

4. Cultural Importance: When is this music usually played? For example, is it for festivals, celebrations, work, or storytelling? (2 marks)

5. Personal Reflection: If you were to perform this music with Max the monkey, which instrument would you choose and why? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Find a piece of music from your chosen region. Create a rhythm pattern of 4 beats using body percussion (clapping, tapping, or stamping) that fits the style you researched.