

Grade 4 Music: Exploring Rhythms and Cultures of the World

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

Read each question carefully. Use the word bank to help you with your answers. Ensure you use full sentences for the longer responses.

Music is a universal language that tells the story of people and places. Across the globe, different cultures have developed unique ways to create sound. In West Africa, the djembe drum is central to community celebrations, often featuring complex layers of rhythm. In Indonesia, the gamelan orchestra uses tuned gongs and metallophones to create a shimmering soundscape. Meanwhile, in Brazil, energetic street parades are powered by the syncopated, driving beat of samba music. Understanding these traditions helps us appreciate how geography and history shape the music we hear today.

Word bank: Djembe · Polyrhythm · Gamelan · Pentatonic · Texture · Tempo · Samba · Syncopation

1. Identify one West African instrument mentioned in the passage and explain its role in the community. (2 marks)

2. Define the term 'syncopation' in your own words. Why is it important in styles like samba? (3 marks)

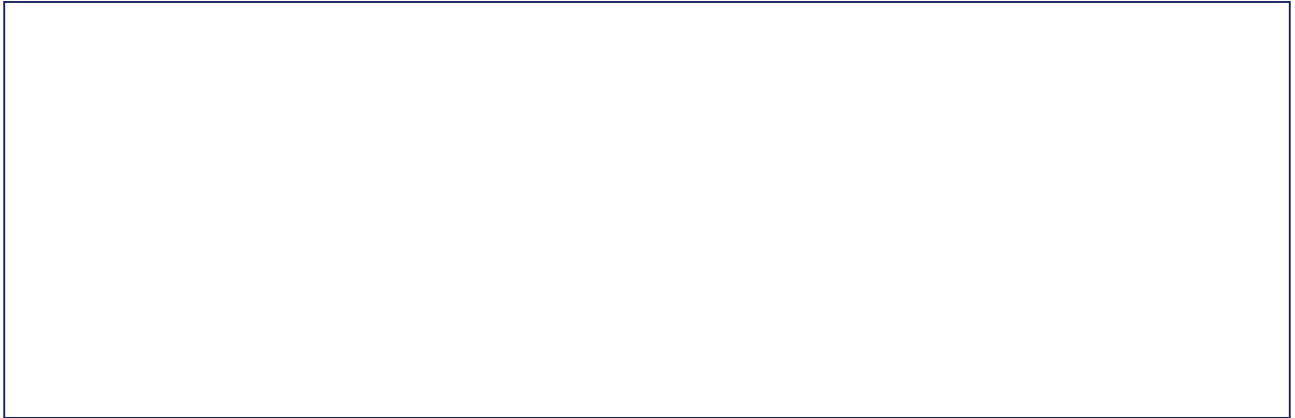
3. Compare the sound of a Gamelan orchestra to a Western orchestra. Use at least two musical terms from the word bank in your answer. (4 marks)

4. What is a 'polyrhythm' and why does it require great skill to perform? (3 marks)

5. Max the monkey wants to compose a piece inspired by world music. Describe three elements he should include to make his music sound 'global' and explain why each is effective. (8 marks)

6. Why is it important for us to study music from cultures different from our own? (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a traditional instrument from a culture you have studied in class. Label the parts of the instrument and identify which country it originates from.



Extension challenge: Research a musical tradition from a country not mentioned in this assessment. Write a short paragraph explaining the instruments used and the type of event where the music is performed.
Total: /25