

Global Rhythms and Musical Landscapes

Learning objective: To identify and illustrate traditional musical instruments from different cultures while understanding how geography influences musical style.

Use this sheet to design a map of musical sounds. Research or recall the instruments listed in the word bank and place them near their region of origin on your drawing. Use colour and artistic flair to show the rhythm or 'mood' of each instrument.

Draw: Draw a large, stylised map of the world as the background. In each continent, draw at least two traditional instruments from the word bank. Use 'Zara's style' by incorporating intricate geometric patterns into the bodies of the instruments. Use vibrant colours to represent the 'vibe' of the music—for example, use warm oranges and yellows for high-energy percussion, and cool blues and greens for soothing string or wind instruments.



Label words: Djembe · Sitar · Panpipes · Didgeridoo · Koto · Steel Pan

Steps:

1. Explain why the materials used to make traditional instruments often reflect the natural landscape of the country where they were invented.
2. Compare and contrast the sound of a Sitar with the sound of a Djembe. How might the way they are played differ?

3. Label the Steel Pan on your drawing and justify why it is considered a melodic percussion instrument.
4. What might happen to the 'sound' of a region's music if the traditional materials (like specific types of bamboo or wood) were no longer available?
5. If you were to invent a new instrument for your local area, what materials would you use and how would it be played?
6. Zara the zebra loves patterns. Describe a rhythmic pattern you might play on a Djembe to represent the stripes of a zebra.