

Global Rhythms: A World Music Expedition with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To identify characteristics, instruments, and cultural origins of music from around the world, meeting Year 5 music curriculum requirements.

Join Finn the Dolphin as he travels the globe! Read the questions carefully. Choose the correct answer for multiple-choice, answer True or False, or provide the one-word answer required. Each question is worth 1 mark.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.False, 4.Djembe, 5.B, 6.True, 7.Gamelan, 8.A, 9.False, 10.Polyrhythm. Teacher Note: Ensure pupils understand that world music encompasses diverse traditions and that listening skills are key to identifying timbres.

Word bank: Djembe · Gamelan · Pentatonic · Polyrhythm · Samba · Accordion · Taiko · Calypso

1. **1. Which of these instruments is a traditional West African drum often played with bare hands? A) Violin B) Sitar C) Djembe* D) Bagpipes (1 mark)**
 2. **2. True or False: A 'Polyrhythm' occurs when two or more different rhythms are played at the same time. (1 mark)**
 3. **3. True or False: Traditional Japanese Taiko drumming is always played very quietly. (1 mark)**
 4. **4. What is the name of the Indonesian musical ensemble consisting mainly of tuned percussion instruments like gongs and metallophones? (1 mark)**
 5. **5. Which scale, often found in Chinese and Japanese music, uses only five notes per octave? A) Major B) Pentatonic* C) Chromatic D) Minor (1 mark)**
 6. **6. True or False: Samba music originated in Brazil and is famous for its lively, syncopated rhythm. (1 mark)**
 7. **7. What type of music is famously associated with the Caribbean islands and often uses steel pans? (1 mark)**
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8. 8. Which instrument is often used in folk music across Europe and South America, featuring a bellows and buttons or keys? A) Accordion* B) Electric Guitar C) Trumpet D) Cello (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: Most traditional world music is written down on standard Western stave notation before it is learned. (1 mark)

10. 10. Which musical term describes a pattern of notes that is repeated throughout a piece of music, common in many cultures? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene featuring Finn the Dolphin listening to a musical performance. Include at least two instruments you have learned about today, showing how they might be decorated with patterns from their home culture.



Extension challenge: Greater Depth Questions: 1. Explain why rhythm is considered the 'heartbeat' of world music. 2. Compare and contrast the sound of a Gamelan orchestra with a Western symphony orchestra. 3. Justify why it is important for musicians to learn music orally from other cultures rather than just reading sheet music. 4. What might happen to the cultural identity of a country if its traditional music stopped being passed down to the next generation? 5. Describe how the environment (e.g., mountains, oceans, forests) might influence the instruments a culture creates. 6. If you were to compose a new piece of music representing your local area, which instruments would you choose and why?