

St Mark's Church of England School - Knowledge Organiser

Subject: Music

Year: 6

Genre of music used this term

African Drumming

African drums have a unique and more profound symbolic meaning when compared with western music. Traditionally, these drums represent the soul of the community they're found in. The music played by drum ensembles is very complex in rhythm and texture.

What interrelated dimensions of music should I know by the end of Year 6?

Pulse	The steady beat that lies underneath the music. It stays the same throughout the whole piece of music.
Rhythm	The short and long notes that make up a piece of music. This changes often within the music.
Pitch	This is how high or low the notes in the music are.
Tempo	This is the speed that the piece of music goes in.
Dynamics	This is the volume of the music, how loud or quiet it is. This can change often in the music.
Texture	This is the layers of sound working together to make music interesting
Structure	This term refers to how a piece of music is (intro, verse, chorus etc.)
Timbre	This is how all instruments, including voices, have a certain sound quality e.g. the trumpet has a very different sound quality to the violin.

How to play the Djembe

Parts of the Djembe



Bass



Holding your hand flat with your fingers together; strike the centre of the drum with the palm of your hand.

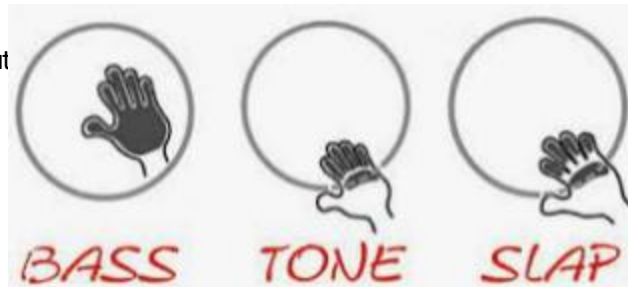
Tone



Played with the fingers and not your palm, the tone produces a higher pitched note than the bass. To master this technique, strike the rim of the drum with slightly cupped fingers – remember to keep them firmly together.

Slap

The slap is the final 'beginner' djembe drumming technique, but it is considered to be the most difficult to play. As you would expect, the slap is played by using a 'slapping' motion. You should be careful not to use too much force though.



How to hold the Djembe



Questions to ask when listening to a piece of music.

- What do you like about this piece of music?
- What instruments can you hear?
- What is this piece of music's structure?
- Where in the music can you hear a high pitch? Where can you hear a low pitch?
- What is the tempo of this piece? Does it stay the same throughout or does it change? Where does it change?
- Does an instrument being used have an interesting timbre?