



## Knowledge Organiser

### MUSIC

### Djembe Drum Course YEAR 1 & 2

AUTUMN 2

The **djembe**( pronounced **Jem-bay**) is one of West Africa's best known instruments. This goblet-shaped **drum** is traditionally carved from a single piece of **African** hardwood and topped with an animal skin as a drumhead. ... "Dje" means gather and "be" means everyone, which gave the **drum** used in these calls to order its name.



### Origins and Traditions

- Africa is a continent NOT a country.
- 50 different countries make up Africa with many cultures.
- Djembe drums represent 10% of the entire population of Africa in terms of instruments they play.
- Invented in 1200 AD by the Mandinka Tribe from Mali.

### Traditionally used for :-

- Passing on important historical, religious and cultural information to future generations by a Griot.
- Story telling
- Singing and dancing used as part of performances at events such as festivals, calling for rain or a good harvest, ceremonies like births, weddings and funerals.



### Related Instruments

Goblet Drum

Dunun

Ashiko

Bougarabou



### Key Vocabulary

**Griot** - A West African historian, story teller, praise singer, poet or musician.

**Membranophone** -A family of instruments in which the sound is produced by a stretched membrane.

**Djembefola** - A master djembe player.

**Pitch** - The quality of a sound governed by the rate of vibrations producing it.

**Bass** - Low pitch

**Tone** -Medium pitch

**Slap**- High pitch

### Master Djembe players

Mamady Keita

Famoudou Konate

### Useful resources

Albums worth listening to for an introductory overview of West African music :-

Mamady Keita: Wassolon, Nankama

Soungalo Coulibaly : L' Art du Djembe

### Sources of planning

National Curriculum,African percussionist Farai Malianga, YouTube