



Knowledge Organiser

MUSIC

Djembe Drum Course YEAR 1 AUTUMN 1

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