

Y5: African Instruments

Background Information

Music is an integral part of African culture and society. For many cultures it is an important part of religious ceremonies, rituals and every day life. Everyone will take part in singing, dancing or playing an instrument.

Songs and musical techniques are passed down through word of mouth. Very few things are written down, creating a whole genre of individual and improvised music.

Design Inspiration

African music as a genre aims to celebrate and express life and movement. The children will explore African music and evaluate it before making their own instrument.

Design Process

Pupils to begin to think about how they could create an instrument using similar qualities to an African instrument. Then, they will test each material for durability, ability to stick together, ease of cutting and fit for purpose. They will then write a list of instructions on how to create a Kalimba, explaining in the instructions how the pitch is changed. The children will then follow their written instructions and create a Kalimba instrument. They may find that you need to modify their design or instructions. If so, ensure they record what they had to change and why. Finally, the children will evaluate their instrument, using the sheet to scaffold their learning, by answering the questions fully.

Technical knowledge

A string instrument's sound is made by the strings vibrating caused by the musician plucking, strumming or using a bow. The pitch is changed by changing the length or the thickness of the string.

[Aspirations and career links to DT:](#) musician, designer, instrument maker, researcher, artist

Vocabulary:

Pitch, percussion, volume, Kalimba, instrument, materials, design, evaluate



Design
inspiration



Design
process



Technical
knowledge



Practical
knowledge



Technical
knowledge



Practical
knowledge



Design
inspiration



Design
process