

Knowledge Organiser: Celebrations



Topic Background

Music is enjoyed all around the world and plays an integral part in the dancing and enjoyment of festivals and celebrations. Music holds tales connected to the traditions of the country which are passed down through generations. Its powerful, emotional connections mean that it is often momentous in bringing communities together. Each culture has its own style of music with different features.

Key Features

Traditional Chinese: Chinese New Year

- pentatonic scale
- drone
- ostinato, melodic and/or rhythmic
- melody



pentatonic scale

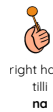


Bhangra: Punjabi Weddings

- chaal
- fast tempo
- use of Dha, Ge and Na
- rhythmic ostinato
- break



dhol



right hand
tilli
na



left hand
dagga
ge



both hands
tilli and dagga
dha

Samba: Rio Carnival

- syncopation
- polyrhythm
- call and response
- lively fast tempo
- 2/4 time



Irish Reel: St Patrick's Day

- repetitive melody
- drone
- rhythmic ostinato



bodhran



spoons
(often called bones)



fiddle



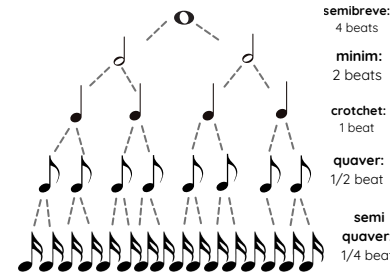
flute

Listening Pieces

- Drowsy Maggie, The Chieftains
- Drowsy Maggie, Sean Softley
- Music for Chinese Lion Dance, The Chinese Orchestra of Beijing Central

Musical Knowledge

Note Values



The number of beats in a bar.



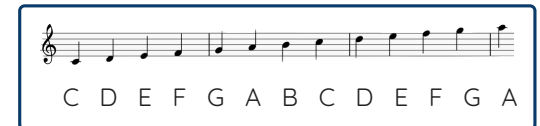
quaver rest:
1/2 beat rest



crotchet rest:
1 beat rest



The type of note used to count the beat.



Key Vocabulary

accent: a note or beat that is played louder

ascending: moving up in pitch

break: a break is a different rhythm that will appear every now and then to keep the music exciting.

call and response: two phrases, the first phrase being the call and the second phrase is a response to the first

compose: to write or create music

descending: moving down in pitch

ensemble: a group of performers

genre: a style or category of music

ostinato: a musical phrase or rhythm which is repeated

perform: to show others your music

phrasing: indicates where the singer should breathe, connecting or grouping several notes or rhythms to create a sequence of sounds that sound pleasing

polyrhythm: when two or more rhythms play at the same time

reel: music notated into simple time, either 2/2 or 4/4 time signature

structure: how the music is organised

sustain: hold

syncopation: playing on the off-beat

tempo: how fast or slow the music is

texture: how the different layers of the music combine to give an overall effect

time signature: tells us how many beats in a bar