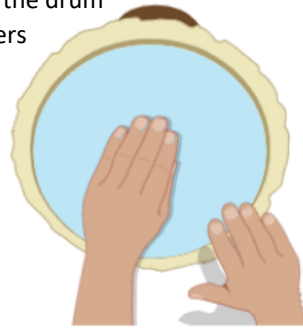


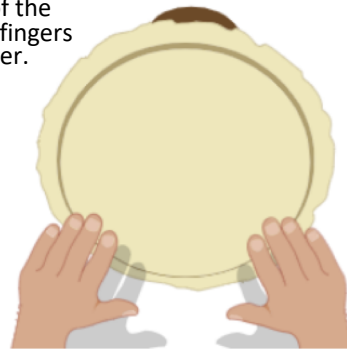
Uplands Manor Year 3: African Drumming / Djembe Knowledge Organiser



Bass played in the centre of the drum skin, fingers together



Tone played at the edge of the drum, fingers together.



Slap played at the edge of the drum, fingers apart



HOLDING THE DJEMBE:
The Djembe is tilted away from the player, gripped by the knees and feet, like this...



Term	Definition
DJEMBE	An hour-glass shaped drum from West Africa.
MASTER DRUMMER (DJEMBIFOLA)	The Master Drummer plays the calls, teaches the rhythms to new players, leads the ensemble and improvises over the music
RHYTHM	Short and long sounds that, when put together, make the music move
OSTINATO	A pattern (rhythmic or melodic) which is repeated over and over, many times
PITCH	High and Low sounds produced by playing the drum skin in different places. Bass = Low Pitch, Tone/Slap = Higher Pitch
IMPROVISATION	Where musical ideas are made up on the spot. An improvisation will be different every time it happens.
CALL & RESPONSE	Where one person plays (or sings) a call, and the rest of the ensemble answers. The call and response may be the same music, or different (like a question and answer).

Uplands Manor Year 3: African Drumming / Djembe Knowledge Organiser

In this unit we focus on the traditional drumming music of West Africa using djembes. A djembe is a rope-tuned skin-covered goblet drum played with bare hands, originally from West Africa.

Djembe music was originally used to tell stories and to transmit messages through a rich tapestry of oral tradition passed through generations. Messages could be sent over great distances between villages in a kind of message “relay”.

Different djembe tones are produced by using different areas of the skin and a variety of hand positions/techniques.



Steps to success:

- I can hold my drum with the correct technique
- I can listen to the pulse and play my djembe in time
- I can listen to and repeat increasingly complex rhythms
- I can count the rests (silences) accurately
- I can play bass, tone and slap sounds by changing my hand position on the djembe
- I can recognise High and Low sounds on the staff
- I can begin to improvise (freestyle)

The Djembe in West African Culture and Tradition:

- The Djembe has been part of West African Musical Culture for many centuries and was first played by the Mandinke tribe of Mali.
- The Djembe is traditionally made of a goatskin head, tied with stretched ropes to a carved, one-piece wooden body.
- Traditionally, the people of West Africa believed that three spirits inhabit the Djembe; the spirit of the goat (skin), the tree (body) and the maker of the drum themselves.

The Djembes we play in school are all made from, vegan-friendly materials: Spun Copper body and a synthetic, all-weather head.

