

Multicultural Percussion Instruments 20 Players

Guidance Notes for Teachers

A set of easy to play instruments that create a variety of different sounds from around the world including Asia, Africa and South America. Create cross-curricular links by learning about the instruments.



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| 4. Straw Star Shaker x 1 | 14. Castanet Rattle x 1 |
| 5. Bamboo Y Shaker x 1 | 15. Bamboo Guiro x 1 |
| 6. Maraca x 1 | 16. Cactus Rainstick x 1 |
| 7. Kelele Shaker x 1 | 17. Egg Shaker x 1 |
| 8. Pair of Cymbals x 1 | 18. Boing Stick x 1 |
| 9. Rakatak x 1 | 19. Pair of Ankle Bells x 1 |
| 10. Hand Drum x 1 | 20. Frog Guiro x 1 |

Please note contents and designs may vary.



The instruments in the Multicultural Percussion Pack shown in the pictures on the left can be used in KS1 and KS2 classrooms.

- Create cross-curricular links and cover elements of the Music, Geography and Art and Design curriculum.
- Explore a range of different percussion instruments and where in the world they come from.
- Introduce the resources during whole class teaching and provide time for hands-on exploration in small groups.
- Group and sort the instruments according to material.
- Add the instruments to tabletop areas and promote independent investigation.



Activity 1 – Instrument Mystery Activity

- Introduce the instruments without naming or identifying them.
- Give the pupils time to work together to guess what the instruments are called and how they can be played.
- Encourage the pupils to identify what materials the instruments are made of.

Activity 2 – Hands-on Instrument Exploration

- Identify and name each of the instruments.
- Explain the material and how to use them.
- Give time for small groups to handle each instrument.

Activity 3 – Instrument Investigation

- Encourage the pupils to look at elements of the instrument that can be adapted.
- Talk about pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre and texture.
- Encourage the pupils to discuss their preferences.

Activity 4 – Music Challenge

- Explore the instruments and identify those which make a specific sound.
- Use the instruments to play and record 'special effects' noises.
- Encourage the pupils to play the special sound effects alongside a story/picture book.
- Create an opportunity for this to be performed to an audience.

Activity 5 – Geography Investigation

- Use a world map to name and identify where a selection of the instruments originate from.
- Use the information below to help.
- Discuss the choice of material and explore why this has been used.

Activity 6 – Art and Design

- Encourage the pupils to design and make their own percussion instrument.
- Are there readily available materials they could use?
- Produce a 'how to play' document for other pupils to use.
- Ask the pupils for ideas to rename the existing instruments – think creatively!

Discussion Points – Topics

- Cactus Rainstick from Chile, South America

Also known as - rainmaker, storm stick, waterfall shaker

This attractive Fair Trade rainstick is made from a length of naturally fallen cactus. The spines are pushed back through the hardened skin, into the hollow body of the instrument and it is then filled with tiny gravel pieces and the ends are then sealed. The spines allow for the gravel to trickle slowly down through the obstructions when upended, making a beautiful rain like sound. The origin of the rainstick suggests they are likely very old and predate the Spanish conquest of Central and South America. They were probably used to appease the rain gods and in the dry areas were possibly in the hope they could bring rainfall. Our rainsticks are handmade in Chile and feature a woven piece of traditional Chilean fabric wrapped around the instrument. The upcycled nature of this item means that every rainstick is truly unique.



➤ Frog Guiro from Thailand

Share the Frog Guiro Origin and Process notes included with this guidance.

➤ Coconut Maraca from Indonesia

This handcrafted Fair Trade shaker made in Indonesia, has been made with a polished coconut shell full of beads and mounted onto a turned wooden handle. Indonesia is the biggest exporter of coconuts in the world, so shells of coconuts are readily available. The maraca is a good example of how Indonesians make something worthwhile out of something that would otherwise be a waste product. Coconut shell is used because of its durability and strength.

➤ Hand drum from Bali, Indonesia

Also known as - pellet drum, monkey drum

This Fair Trade hand drum is played by vertically placing the handle between the outstretched hands so that the head is above the thumbs. By rubbing the hands together, the drum rotates causing the attached beads to quickly strike each face. Hand drums are often used by street traders throughout Asia to attract the attention of potential customers!

➤ Thunderer from Bali, Indonesia

Also known as – thunder shaker, thunder tube, thunder drum

This Fair Trade thunderer is hand crafted in Bali and is decorated with beautiful and colourful dot painting. The thunderer is played by holding the tube section and allowing the metal spring to dangle freely, the instrument is then gently shaken from side to side. This creates a fantastically realistic thunder sound. The more vigorously the instrument is shaken, the more of a booming thunderclap the player can produce. DO NOT pull the spring!

Explore further - watch videos of different sized thunderers being played.

➤ Seed shaker from Bali, Indonesia

This Fair Trade seed shaker is an upcycled instrument made from seed husks left over from Indonesian cuisine! Using seed shells which would otherwise be waste makes this a cheap but very effective instrument. It makes a lovely crunchy noise when shaken.

Explore further - are there other seeds that could be used to make instruments?

➤ Ankle Bells from Asia

Ankle bells are worn just above the ankle and allow the audience to fully appreciate the rhythmic aspects and complex footwork of the dance. They are worn by dancers and performers in many Asian countries. An individual bell is called a ghungroo and one dancer may have as many as 200 bells on each ankle! They are widely used in competitive bhangra as well as classical Indian traditions and dances.

➤ Mini Shekere from Ghana

This uniquely sounding Fair Trade shekere is handmade in Ghana and is made from a hollowed out gourd with dozens of Job's tear beads. Every shekere is unique as the size of the gourd varies from season to season.

Explore further – What is a gourd? What are Job's tear beads?

➤ Instrument videos

Use online resources to show videos of the instruments being played.



➤ Fair Trade

Fair Trade is a worldwide movement that aims to help producers in less economically developed countries, whether they be handicraft producers or farmers. The term Fair Trade means that producers receive a fair price for the goods they produce.

Each instrument included in this pack can be a way to teach and learn about the principles of Fair Trade. Teaching the principles of Fair Trade provides learning opportunities in many areas of learning, including PSED/PSHE, Understanding the World and Geography. The instruments have been sourced by Siesta, who have been a member of [BAFTS](#) (the British Association for Fair Trade Shops and Suppliers) for over 25 years and are also a BAFTS recognised Fair Trade importer.

Most of the suppliers of the instruments in this pack are small family businesses employing only a few people; Siesta try to keep them in continuous work enabling their businesses to grow. Nearly everything in this pack is handmade with materials being sustainably sourced, and traditional skills being kept alive.

Explore further – What are the 10 Principles of Fair Trade? How does Fair Trade help producers? Research the many organisations around the world, including Fairtrade Foundation, the British Association for Fair Trade Shops and Suppliers (BAFTS) and World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO).

Frog Guiro

Origin and Process Notes

A Fair Trade frog guiro, handmade in Northern Thailand from acacia wood. Run the stick along the ridges on its back from rear to front to make a deep croaking sounds or hit it on the head to make a 'pock' sound.

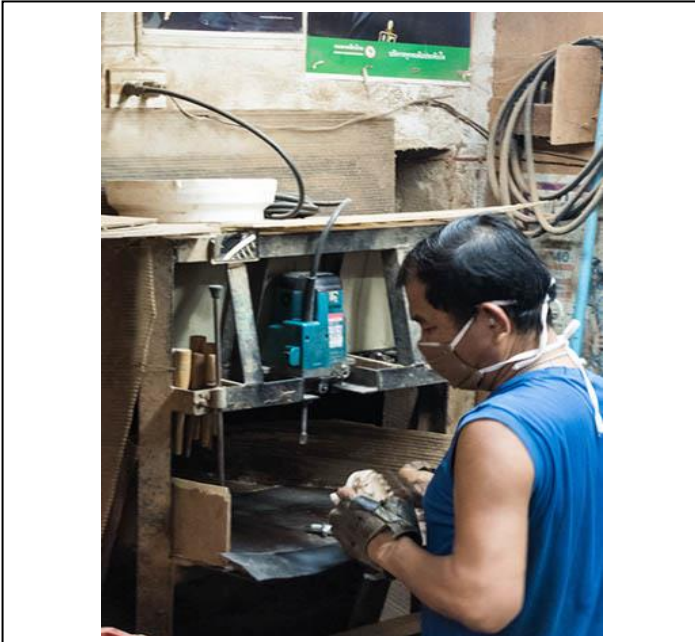
Read more about the frog's journey from start to finish!



These frog guiros are produced in the mountainous countryside outside the city of Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand. As woodcarving is no longer a big enough source of income to do exclusively, many of the woodcarvers also farm Longan fruit, a small, sweet and juicy lychee-like fruit. With many producers working from their homes, traditional carving tools can be spotted amongst their everyday items.



These frog guiros are made from acacia wood, used because of its sustainability as a fast-growing tree. One particular business has grown from strength to strength over the years and the owner has now built a large factory right next to his house and is now able to employ a large staff of carvers and painters – a perfect example of the Fair Trade way of working.



Firstly, the rough shape of each frog is carved out by hand before being carefully sanded down. The sawdust waste is then transported to be used as a base for growing mushrooms at a nearby farm! Next a drill is used to shape the central hole in the frog. Each frog is drilled and then given a quick tap on the head to see if it makes the desired 'thock' sound. If it is not quite right, it gets another go under the drill. If it passes the test, then they are given a final sand down inside and are taken to the large drying kiln.



The kiln is almost entirely fired by leftover chunks of wood from the manufacturing of the frogs and has been installed with a top of the range alarm system in case the fire gets too hot. Once the frogs have all been fully dried, they are ready to be stained and painted. The painters use a mixture of techniques depending on the desired finish. Some use a paint gun to spray them whilst others require more detailed hand painting with brushes. After painting the frogs are given a final quality control check and are then packaged up for sending out.

Can you spot the giant frog in this photo?

