

Indian Percussion Instruments Pack

Guidance Notes for Teachers

Learn about the music of India with this set of beautiful Indian instruments. Explore and investigate the different sounds and learn about the instruments and their importance. This pack is ideal for creating cross-curricular links.



Contents:

1. Bhangra Dhol x 1
2. Colourful Dholak x 1
3. Mini Hand Taal x 1
4. Manjira Chimes x 1
5. Wooden Monk Bell x 1
6. Beaded Cabasa x 1
7. Disc Block Knocker x 1
8. Clapper x 1
9. Pair of Ankle Bells x 1
10. Pair of Indian Wood Claves x 1

Please note contents and designs may vary.



The instruments in the Indian 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, History and Art and Design curriculum.
- Explore a range of different percussion instruments from India.
- Introduce the resources during whole class teaching and provide time for hands-on exploration in small groups.



- 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.
- Talk about the material of the instrument and how to play them.
- Give time for small groups to handle each instrument.

Activity 3 – Instrument Investigation

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

Activity 4 – Music Challenge

- Plan and rehearse a piece of music using the instruments.
- Perform the pieces as part of the musical element of the Holi festival celebration.
- Encourage pupils to dance – consider looking at Bhangra movements and traditional folk dances.

Activity 5 – Geography Investigation

- Use a world map to name and locate India, where these instruments originate from.
- Research India. Think about the flag, culture, food, history and significant festivals, such as Diwali and Holi.
- Create a fact file using the information gathered.

Activity 6 – Art and Design

- Design and make clay diya lamps.
- Find a suitable outside space and use chalks to create Rangoli patterns on the floor.
- Design a bright and colourful dhol drum.
- Recreate the music and dance of the Holi festival and take powder paints outside and recreate the tradition of throwing coloured powder!

Information Points to be used for demonstration and discussion

➤ Bhangra Dhol

This small, brightly painted version of the dhol is traditionally used all across South Asia at weddings and other festivals and is also a major component of modern bhangra music. It is a double ended drum comprising of a mango wood shell and metal rings for adjusting the tension on the skins. The bhangra dhol is played with two sticks. The thinner, straight stick plays the higher pitched end of the drum and is known as a 'tihli.' The thicker, bent stick plays the bass end of the drum and is known as a 'dagga.'

➤ Manjira Chimes

These manjira chimes are a traditional percussion instrument of India. These simple chimes are often used in folk and devotional music, particularly in Gujarati and Marathi traditions. The chimes are hit together to create a high pitched, tinkling sound, used as an accompaniment to a larger ensemble.



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.

➤ Indian Wood Claves

This pair of light mango wood claves are handmade. Claves are an important percussion instrument and are often used to play a repeating rhythmic pattern known as a 'clave.' To get the best sound from the claves, one stick is held in one hand supported between the thumb and the fingertips with the palm cupped. This turns the hand into a resonating chamber and increases the volume when struck with the other stick.

➤ Colourful Dholak

This simple and colourful double headed Indian drum is made from a mango wood shell, with skins that can be tightened or slackened by adjusting the metal rings on the ropes. The dholak is usually played with only the bare hands and it is played slung over the shoulder standing up, in the lap or under the knee on the floor. Although it originated in India, the versatile dholak is now used in a huge number of global musical styles.

➤ Instrument Videos

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

➤ Festival Videos

Use online resources to show videos of the Holi and Diwali celebrations.