

Beginners Multicultural Instruments Pack

Guidance Notes for Teachers

A special selection of instruments from around the world to introduce younger children to an array of instruments with examples of wood, skin and metal sounds. Create cross-curricular links with this set of easy to play instruments.



Contents:

1. Bamboo Rainstick x 1
2. Maraca x 1
3. Tiny Painted Djembe x 1
4. Caxixi Shaker x 1
5. Large Cow Bell on Rope x 1
6. Straw Star Shaker x 1
7. Bamboo Y Shaker x 1
8. Pair of Indian Wood Claves x 1
9. Shaker x 1
10. Egg Shaker x 1
11. Clapper x 1
12. Hand Drum x 1
13. Bamboo Guiro x 1
14. Ankle Bells x 1

Please note contents and designs may vary.

The instruments in the Beginners Multicultural 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 and how they are played.
- 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.
- 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

- In small groups assign a leader (*a maestro*).
- The leader starts with a simple pattern and the group repeats it back using the instrument they have. Swap instruments and roles.
- Can the leader change the pattern and introduce more complex sequences?

Activity 5 – Geography Investigation

- Use a world map to name and locate Indonesia, where many of these instruments are made.
- Research Indonesia. Think about the flag, culture, food, history and landmarks.
- Create a fact file using the information gathered.

Activity 6 – Art and Design

- Explore the origins of dot painting.
- Look at the dot painting on some of the instruments.
- Design and create an instrument and decorate with dot painting.

Discussion Points – Topics

- 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.

Explore further – How many different ways can the hand drum be played?



➤ Indian Wood Claves from India

This pair of light mango wood claves are Fair Trade and handmade in India. 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.

➤ Bamboo Guiro from Bali, Indonesia

This Fair Trade guiro is made from a slice of thick bamboo with chunky ridges producing a rich, percussive noise when rubbed with the attached striker. The guiro has been finished with a simple burnt etching technique and dot painting. These bamboo guiros are hand made in Bali using fast growing and inexpensive bamboo, making their production more environmentally friendly.

Explore further - What are the advantages of using bamboo?

➤ 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.

➤ Ankle Bells from Indonesia

Ankle bells are worn just above the ankle by dancer and performers and allow the audience to fully appreciate the rhythmic aspects and complex footwork of the dance. 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.

➤ 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).

