

All About African Drums



Drumming in Africa

Africa is a large continent where lots of different styles of music are popular. Drumming is popular in many African countries and there are several types of drum that are used.

Different drums are popular in different areas and are used for various types of music.



Here is Africa. Can you find it on a map or a globe?

Djembe

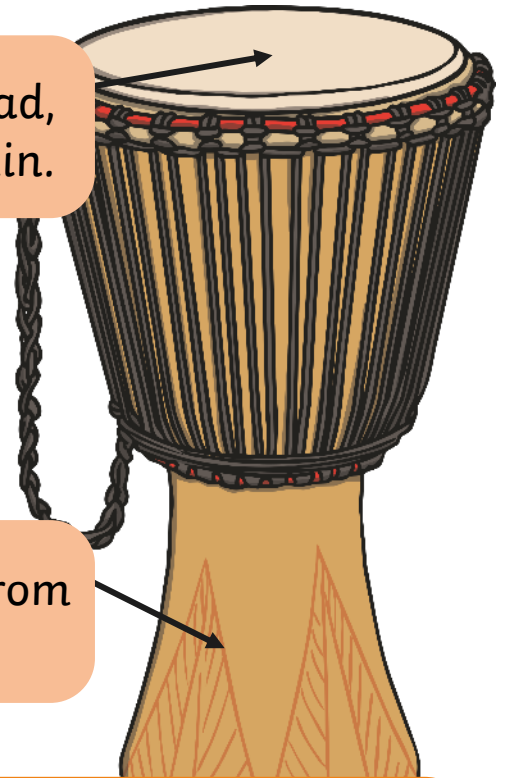
One of the most famous African drums is the djembe. It has a narrow, wooden body that gets wider towards the top. Players hit the djembe with their hands to play it. The djembe originally comes from west Africa.



**Press to hear
the djembe**

The top, or drumhead, is made of goat's skin.

The body is made from a hollowed-out log.

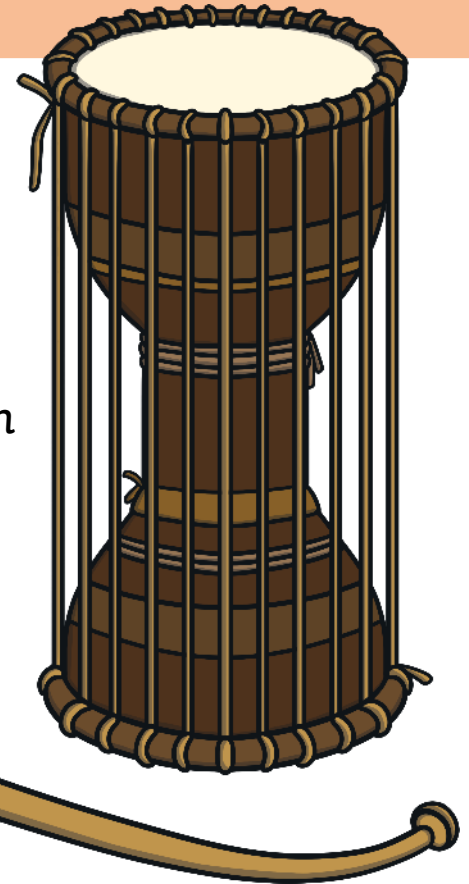


Try clapping to the rhythm or the beat of the music.
Can you play along to the music using instruments?

Dun Dun

The dun dun is a bass drum, which means it is used to play low notes. It is also called a talking drum as it copies the rhythm and sound of speech. It is sometimes played to warn people of danger.

It has two heads, or ends, each covered in cow skin. It is quite big so it is usually played on the floor. The dun dun is played with a stick or beater. The player can squeeze the strings to make a higher or lower sound.



**Press to hear
talking drums**

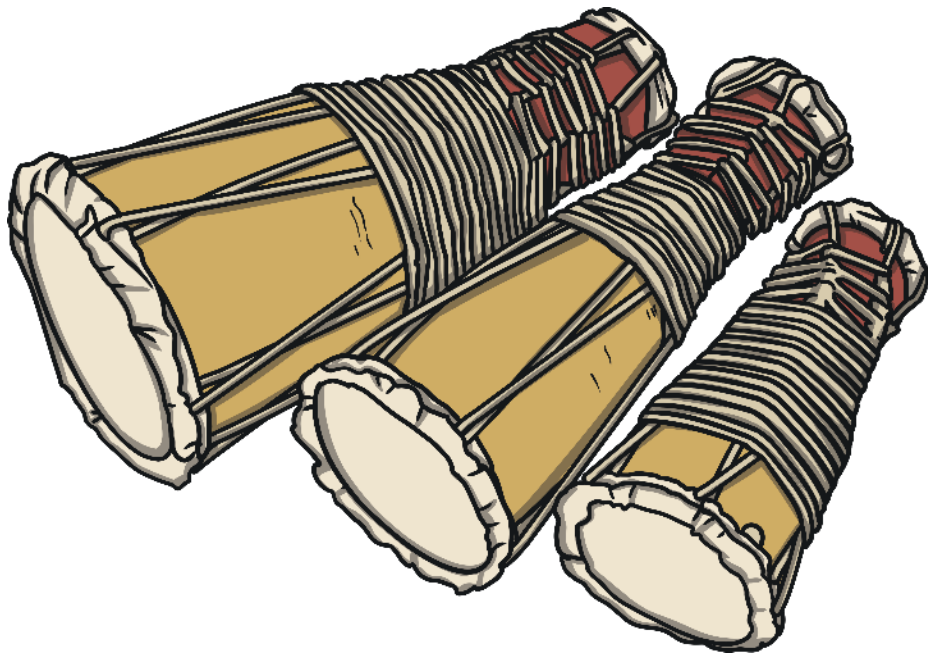
Talk About It...

How is the talking drum music different to the djembe music?

rhythm – A repeating pattern or pulse in a piece of music.

Bata

The bata is actually a set of three drums. People from the Yoruba tribe use these drums when they play religious music. They can be played with hands or a beater. The bata is also popular in Cuba since it was taken there by African people who had been enslaved.



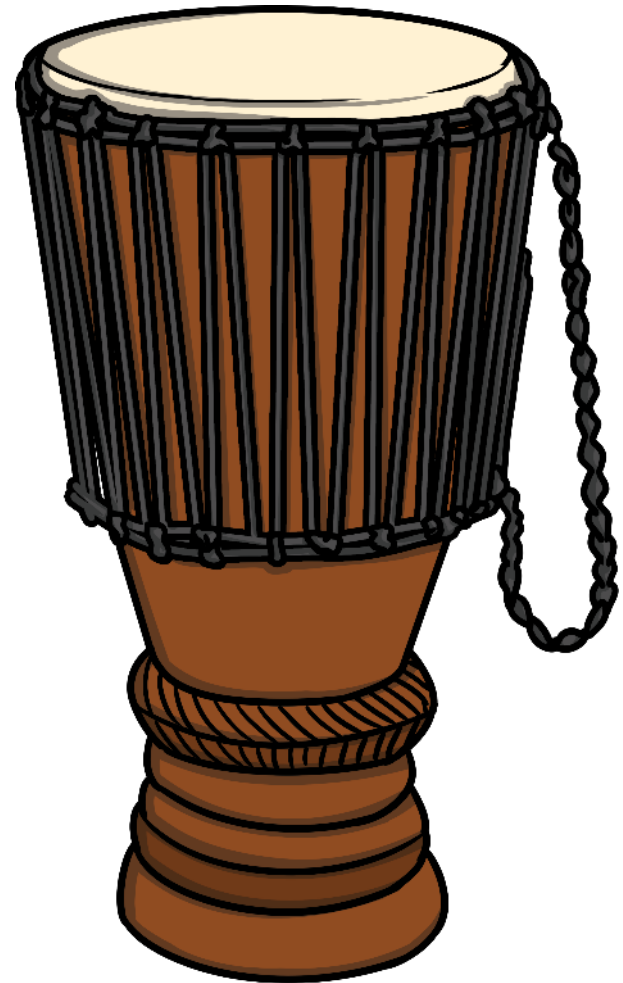
Did You Know...?

All drums are percussion instruments. This means they are played by the musician hitting, tapping or shaking them. Can you think of any other percussion instruments?

Bougarabou

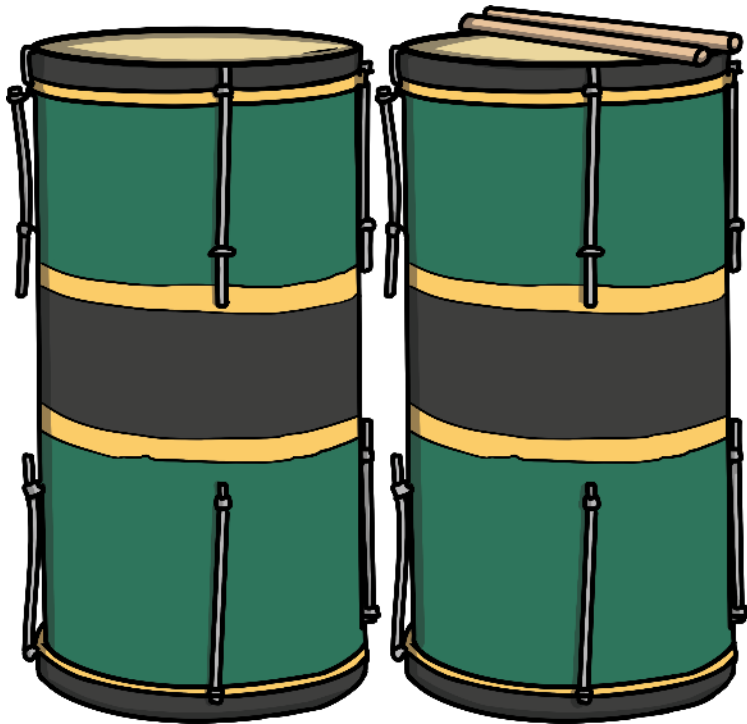
The bougarabou is a goblet-shaped drum which is usually played in a set of three or four. Players sometimes wear special bracelets to make a sound like a tambourine when they hit the drum.

They look a bit like the djembe but are much bigger and make a lower sound.



Ngoma

Ngoma drums come from east Africa and are popular in countries such as Kenya and Uganda. They can be very large and are usually played by groups of people. Ngoma drums are used for dancing and celebrations. Traditionally, these drums are made of wood.



Talk About It...

When do you use music to celebrate? What is your favourite music to dance to?

