



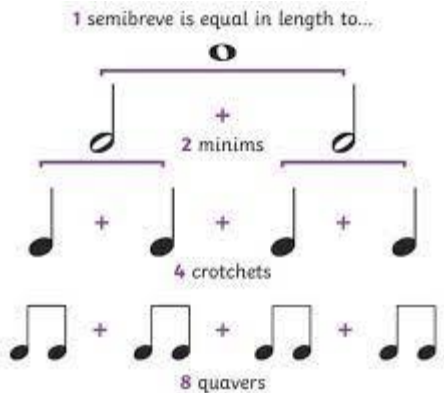
Year 5

African Drumming



There are many types of African drums such as bongos and talking drums. In this topic, we will play the djembe. The djembe is now popular all over the world but it originates in Mali. It spread to other western African countries such as Senegal and Nigeria. Traditional djembe players learn rhythms by ear. The rhythms are passed down through the generations. Djembes are used in various social occasions such as weddings and funerals.

Rhythms can be composed and written down or improvised. We can use notation to read rhythms. A semibreve is worth 4 beats. A minim is worth 2 beats. A crotchet is worth one beat. A quaver is worth half a beat. See the chart.



## The Djembe

- Traditionally djembes are carved by hand
- Djembes are hollow and formed from one piece of wood
  - The djembe is covered in goat skin
- The skin is bound over rings that lie on the top of the drum
- Ropes help to keep the skin in place and can be used to carry the drum

## Vocabulary

Tempo - the speed of the music

Pitch - whether notes are high or low

Rhythm - a pattern of beats

Dynamics - the volume of the music

Timbre - Type of instrument or sound