

Traditional Musical Instruments

Around the World

Reading Worksheet — Level F | tahricteaches.com

Traditional musical instruments serve as cultural **ambassadors**, preserving centuries of artistic **heritage** while connecting communities across generations. These remarkable creations represent far more than entertainment; they embody the soul and identity of entire civilizations.



The diversity of global instruments reflects humanity's creative **ingenuity**. In West Africa, the djembe drum commands respect through its complex rhythms that communicate stories, emotions, and spiritual beliefs. Meanwhile, the Chinese guqin, a seven-stringed zither, requires decades to master and represents philosophical **contemplation** through its subtle, meditative tones.

String instruments demonstrate remarkable **technological** evolution. The violin, perfected in 16th-century Italy, achieves extraordinary expressiveness through precise craftsmanship. Each component—from the resonant spruce top to the maple back—contributes to its **distinctive** voice. Similarly, the Indian sitar's sympathetic strings create ethereal overtones that enhance its mystical character.

Wind instruments showcase diverse **acoustic** principles. The Australian didgeridoo, traditionally crafted from termite-hollowed eucalyptus branches, produces haunting sounds through circular breathing techniques. Conversely, the Native American flute's pentatonic scale evokes natural landscapes and spiritual connections to the **environment**.

Contemporary society faces the challenge of preserving these **invaluable** traditions. Globalization threatens to diminish local musical practices, yet **passionate** musicians and cultural institutions work tirelessly to document, teach, and celebrate traditional instruments. Digital platforms now enable worldwide audiences to discover and appreciate diverse musical heritage.

A. Vocabulary

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|-----------------------|---|
| 1. ambassadors ____ | a. extremely valuable and important |
| 2. heritage ____ | b. showing strong feelings and dedication |
| 3. ingenuity ____ | c. cleverness and creativity in solving problems |
| 4. contemplation ____ | d. the natural world around us |
| 5. technological ____ | e. clearly different and unique from others |
| 6. distinctive ____ | f. representatives who promote understanding between cultures |
| 7. acoustic ____ | g. cultural traditions passed down through history |
| 8. environment ____ | h. deep, careful thinking or meditation |
| 9. invaluable ____ | i. related to advanced tools and methods |
| 10. passionate ____ | j. related to sound and hearing |

B. True or False

1. Traditional instruments only provide entertainment value. ____
2. The djembe drum originates from West Africa. ____
3. The Chinese guqin has seven strings. ____
4. Violins were first perfected in 16th-century Italy. ____

5. The sitar has no sympathetic strings. ____
6. Didgeridoos are made from metal tubes. ____
7. Circular breathing is used to play the didgeridoo. ____
8. The Native American flute uses a chromatic scale. ____
9. Globalization helps preserve all local musical traditions. ____

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: heritage, technological, acoustic, invaluable, passionate

1. Traditional instruments preserve centuries of artistic _____.
2. String instruments demonstrate remarkable _____ evolution.
3. Wind instruments showcase diverse _____ principles.
4. Society faces challenges in preserving these _____ traditions.
5. _____ musicians work to celebrate traditional instruments.

D. Comprehension Questions

1. What do traditional instruments represent beyond entertainment?
2. How does the djembe drum communicate stories and emotions?
3. What makes the violin's sound distinctive?
4. What technique is required to play the didgeridoo effectively?
5. How do digital platforms help preserve musical heritage?

E. Discussion Questions

1. Should governments fund programs to preserve traditional music? Why?
2. How might globalization both threaten and benefit musical diversity?
3. What role do traditional instruments play in maintaining cultural identity?

Answer Key

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A. Vocabulary: 1-f, 2-g, 3-c, 4-h, 5-i, 6-e, 7-j, 8-d, 9-a, 10-b

B. True/False: 1-F, 2-T, 3-T, 4-T, 5-F, 6-F, 7-T, 8-F, 9-F

C. Fill Blanks: 1-heritage, 2-technological, 3-acoustic, 4-invaluable, 5-passionate

D. Comprehension:

1. They embody the soul and identity of entire civilizations
2. Through complex rhythms that convey stories, emotions, and spiritual beliefs
3. Each component contributes to its voice, from the spruce top to maple back
4. Circular breathing techniques
5. They enable worldwide audiences to discover and appreciate diverse musical heritage