

NST GRADE 4 Term 3 Week 5

Indigenous musical instruments in South Africa

Music and musical instruments are very important in many cultures and societies. Different cultures have different musical instruments which are part of their traditions. The instruments which were developed by a group of people and are used in a particular area, are called indigenous instruments. Indigenous instruments are unique to a particular society or culture.

Although the instruments are different, they all work because movement causes vibrations which cause sound.

Africa has a rich musical culture and many unique musical instruments. Some examples are shown below.



Let's look at examples of Western and African instruments. We will look at musical instruments in which you blow, and at musical instruments where you pluck the strings. There are lots of similarities in the instruments of these two cultures.

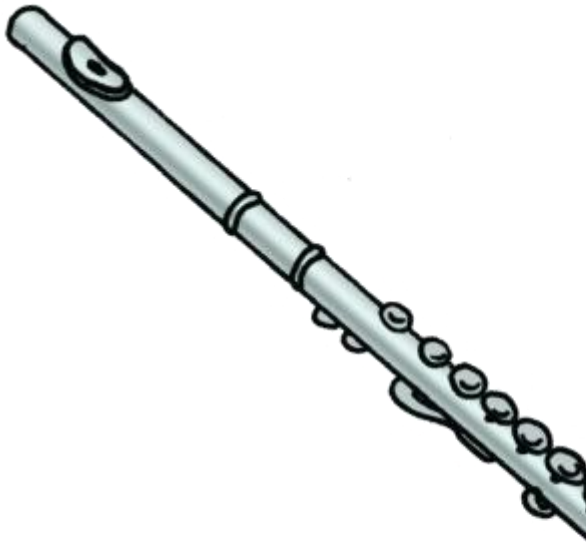
Musical instruments from two different cultures

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Study the examples of musical instruments shown in the following table.
2. Pay special attention to how each one is played and the material they are made from.
3. Answer the questions that follow.

Western Culture

Flute



African Culture

Kwela Flute



French Horn



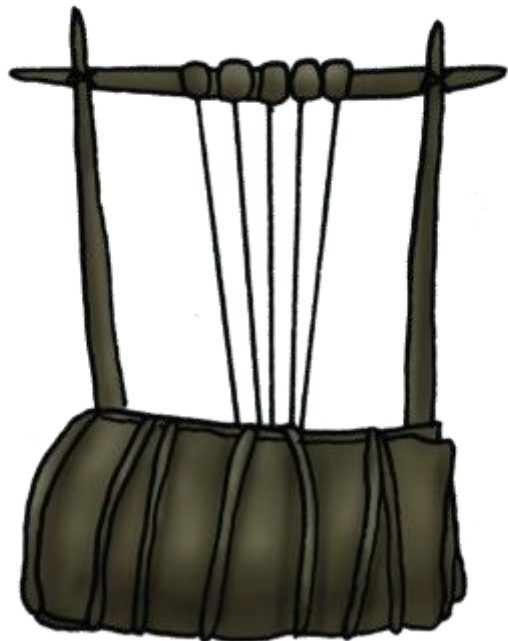
Kudu Horn



Harp



Krar



Traditional Musical Bow instrument

Violin



QUESTIONS:

1. Compare the instruments by filling in the table below:

Instrument	How it is played?	What is it made from?
Flute		
Kwela Flute		
French Horn		
Kudu Horn		
Harp		
Krar		
Violin		
Traditional Musical bow		

2. Remember when we spoke about input and output energy? What do you think is the input energy and output energy for most musical instruments?

Let's now make our own musical instruments! Once made, you could use it to make sounds if you are not allowed to play any musical instruments.

Use recycled resources from home. These could be:

- empty margarine or ice cream container.
- cereal box
- jam tin
- empty bottle
- a stick
- a ruler
- shoe box -- the list of possibilities are limited only by your imagination.

