

# **NIGERIAN TALKING DRUM ESEMBLE**

## Arts Evidence Guide

### **ARTISTIC PERCEPTION**

African music is always approached through rhythm rather than melody; beats rather than notes. Lessons begin with the presentation of four different drums, their respective names, tones and the different patterns each of them produces. Once phrasing on all the drums are mastered, students go on to learn how tones are generated on each drum. Finally, the combination of the four different patterns are shown to form a rhythmic statement.

### **CREATIVE EXPRESSION**

Students who are motivated to a deeper understanding combine drumming with singing Yoruba songs. Yet another level is reached through the study of dance, whereupon it can be realized that the drumming, singing, and dancing, are unique ways of articulating the same expression. It is at this point that students begin to create their own simple rhythmic phrasing constructions.

### **HISTORIC AND CULTURAL CONTEXT**

The history of Yoruba music has been significant both in a social and a spiritual context. Students will be able to differentiate secular from ritual music, and understand its' role in different celebrations. In addition, they will begin to note the similarities and differences between their music and the music of other cultures and will begin to compare and contrast them.

### **AESTHETIC VALUING**

After class discussions and critiques, students will be able to make an analysis of a simple musical performance and gain confidence in communicating their own opinions.

### **CONNECTIONS, RELATIONSHIP APPLICATIONS**

Students will be able to correlate the use of elements in music to other art forms. For example, the aforementioned patterns can be related to those found in fabric prints, paintings, and in graphic design as well as science. They will also witness and experience the process musicians and composers go through to create music. They will identify the similarities that choreographers and dancers experience while creating dance-drama. The talking drum goes beyond entertainment into a special realm of direct communication and therefore is functional in offering another valuable language to the student.

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