



Information Texts: Musical Instruments

English - Spring 2

Lesson 4: Thursday 25th February 2021

Features of a Non-Fiction Text

Good Morning Year 4.
In today's lesson we
are going to explore
the features used in
our information text
and the vocabulary
used



Let's explore the features used:

Drums



From the earliest times drums have been associated with magic and ritual, pounded in battles and parades or used to send messages over long distances. A drum beat provides the pulse that drives the music forwards in a Native American ceremonial dance or an explosive rock and roll song. In

Headings can be used at the beginning of the text to tell us what the main topic is.

Percussion

In a western orchestra all the percussion instruments are located at the rear. They include timpani, a side drum and a bass drum.

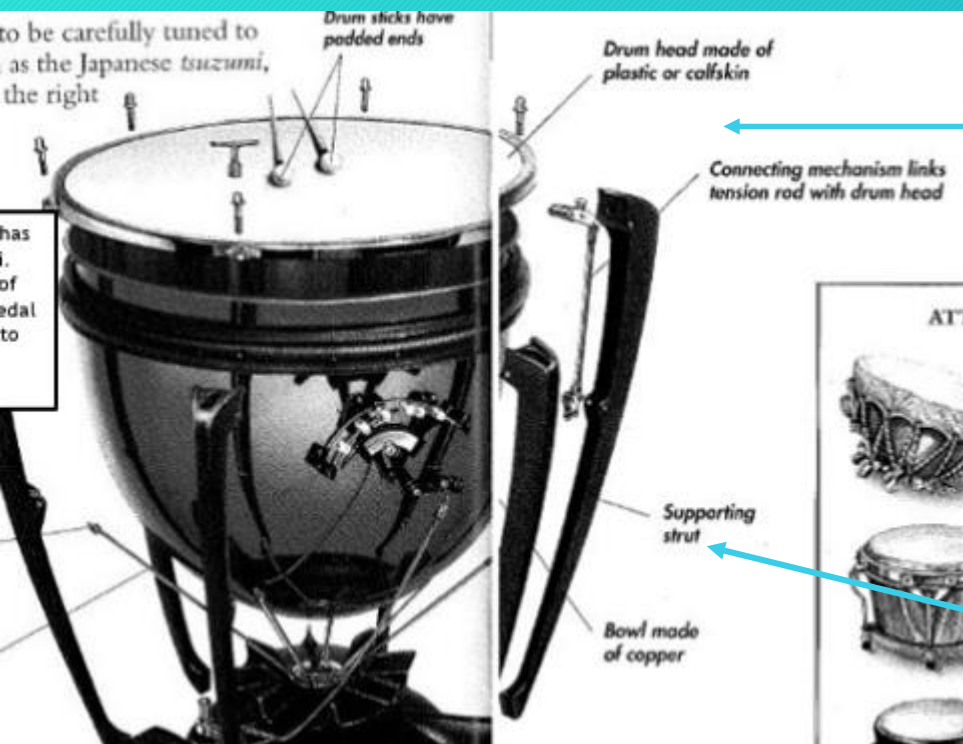
Sub-headings are used to highlight the themes explored in the overall topic. For example our information text was about 'drums' overall but it then went on to give information about specific drums, so 'table drums' could be a sub-heading.

The twirling drum is a small drum on a stick. When the drum is spun around, two balls rattle against the drum head.



Information boxes help the information about something specific be clear and stand out from the rest of the text.

Illustrations allow the reader to get a clearer picture of what the writer is describing and what it looks like.



Diagrams are similar to illustrations as they show the reader a picture of what they are reading about, however diagrams use labels to explain further.

Labels tell the reader the name of parts of the diagram and can have a brief explanation. Often arrows or lines are also used to pinpoint the exact part.

Generalisers

Word Bank

sometimes	all
generally	never
usually	rarely
on the whole	the/a vast majority
most of the time	once in a while
often	occasionally
normally	always
in general	in the main
most	presumably
the/a minority	in most cases
many	as a rule

Generalisers are often used within reports and information texts. They are used when talking 'generally' about something. For example;

In most cases, Viking settlers were not bloodthirsty warriors. Only **a minority** of Vikings came to fight and pillage.



Can you spot the generalising words and phrases here? Whereabouts in the sentences have they been used?

Task 1: read the text again on the next page and make a list of all the generalisers you can find. Two have been highlighted to help you get started.

INSTRUMENTS

Drums



A frame drum beats out the rhythm for this Native American Buffalo dance, which was painted in the 1800's. **Most** frame drums are made of thin wood and skin and are light enough to be held in one hand.

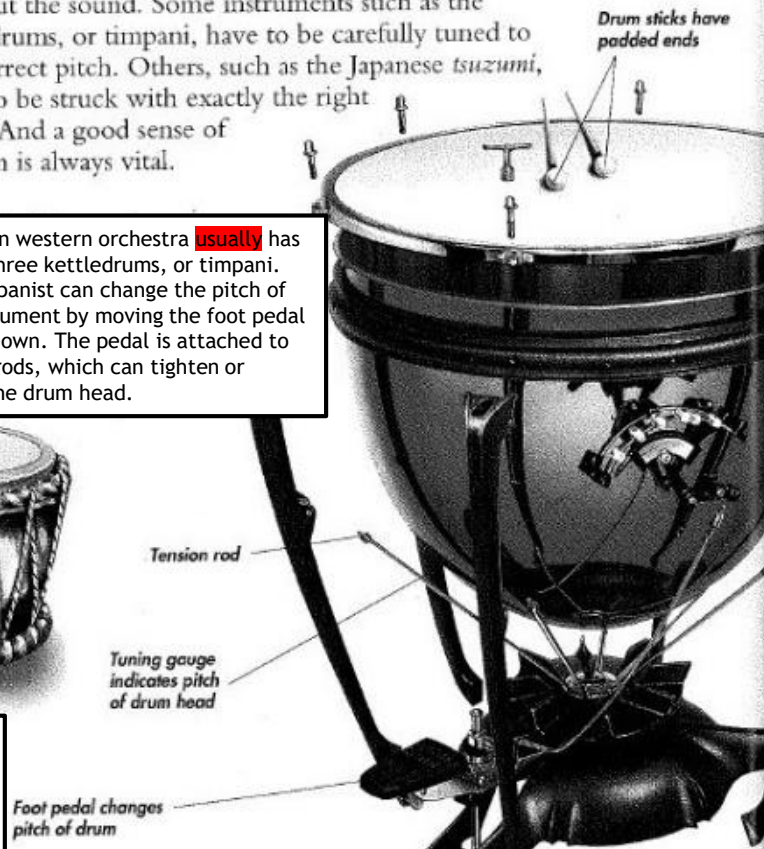
From the earliest times drums have been associated with magic and ritual, pounded in battles and parades or used to send messages over long distances. A drum beat provides the pulse that drives the music forwards in a Native American ceremonial dance or an explosive rock and roll song. In Western orchestras drums often bring a symphony to a dramatic and thunderous climax.

Many drums have a skin stretched tightly across a frame. When the skin is struck by a beater or a hand, its vibrations give out the sound. Some instruments such as the kettledrums, or timpani, have to be carefully tuned to the correct pitch. Others, such as the Japanese *tsuzumi*, have to be struck with exactly the right force. And a good sense of rhythm is always vital.

A modern western orchestra **usually** has two or three kettledrums, or timpani. The Timpanist can change the pitch of the instrument by moving the foot pedal up and down. The pedal is attached to tension rods, which can tighten or loosen the drum head.

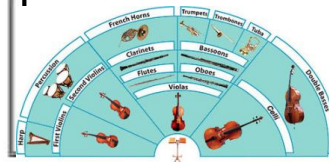


The Indian tabla is made up of two drums, each tuned to a different pitch. The player strikes the drum heads with the fingers of both hands.

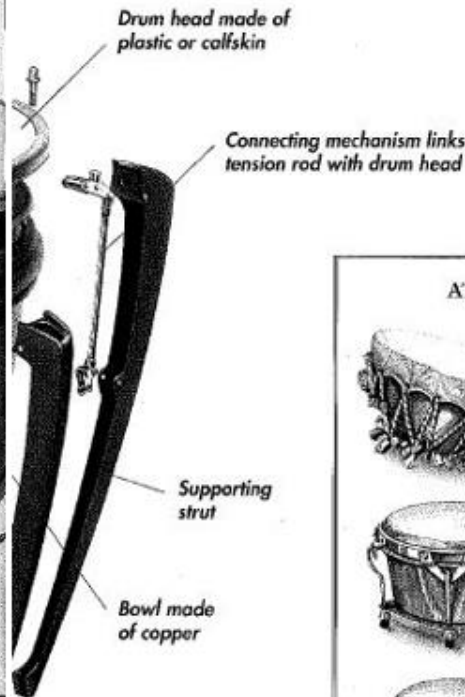


Percussion

In a western orchestra all the percussion instruments are located at the rear. They include timpani, a side drum and a bass drum.



The *tsuzumi* drum from Japan is a small hand-held drum. A silk cord secures the skins at either end. The player can change the pitch of the drum by squeezing the cord to tighten the skin.



ATTACHING THE DRUM HEAD



In some drums the stretched skin, or drum head, is laced to a second skin at the other end of the frame.



In many drums, a metal hoop, tightened around the top of the instrument, holds the drum head in place.



Sometimes the drum head is secured by gluing it to the frame. It can also be nailed or pegged in place.

INSTRUMENTS

The twirling drum is a small drum on a stick. When the drum is spun around, two balls rattle against the drum head.



British Musician, Evelyn Glennie, born 1965, is famous for her solo performances on a wide range of percussion instruments. She is deaf, but feels the vibrations of the music through her sense of touch!



Technical Vocabulary

Technical vocabulary are words that are often specific to the topic. For example if we were reading about volcanos we would expect to see technical words such as lava, magna, eruption etc



Task 2: Find 5 technical words in the information text and use a dictionary to find a definition for each one. If you don't have a dictionary you can search online for the definitions.

The first word has been found for you:

1. **Pitch** -

Important: a word may have more than one definition, this is a **homonym** for example;

Pitch - 1.a place where we play sport 2. the highness or lowness of a sound

Think about which meaning 'pitch' has in this text and only write that definition.

Task 3: Complete the comprehension (refer back to the text).

Write out the questions and answer in full sentences. Check your punctuation!



Reading Comprehension: Drums

Read the text carefully and answer these questions in full sentences!



1) Name *three* ways in which drums have been used in different cultures and times.

2) What word in the first paragraph is a synonym for 'ending'? _____

3) Why do timpani drums need to be tuned?

4) What is the bowl of a kettledrum made of?

5) How is the tabla played?

6) How does the deaf percussionist, Evelyn Glennie, play the drums?

Write one interesting fact that you found from your reading!

Well done Year 4!
If you haven't already done so, why not
follow the clip to make your own drum
kit?
You will need tins, balloons and some
art materials, to decorate however you
like. Have fun!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bm7TZMTo4kcv>



Great Job Year 4!