

Second Class SESE

(History, Geography & Science)

May 5th – 15th

Fortnightly Theme: Sound

You will need: A copybook/paper, pencil, colours, online access (Note: parents should always use age appropriate filters on devices children are accessing and all the children's online research and activity should be supervised by an adult.) See science experiments for additional resources needed.

Geography – Music Around the World

This month we are looking at traditional music from around the world and to get us started we will first look at our own Irish traditional music. Traditional music is often called “Folk Music”. For a small country Ireland has produced a large number of talented musicians and our traditional Irish musicians like the [Dubliners](#), [Enya](#), [Christy Moore](#) and [Mary Black](#) all have their own way of playing traditional Irish music and all add something unique and special to our Irish music catalogue.

Click on the links above to see these artists playing live and think about the different ways they use their instruments and voices to express themselves.

1. Which song did you enjoy most?
2. Draw a picture in response to the song you enjoyed most.



Traditional Irish Instruments

Read the following information on some of the most popular Irish traditional instruments.

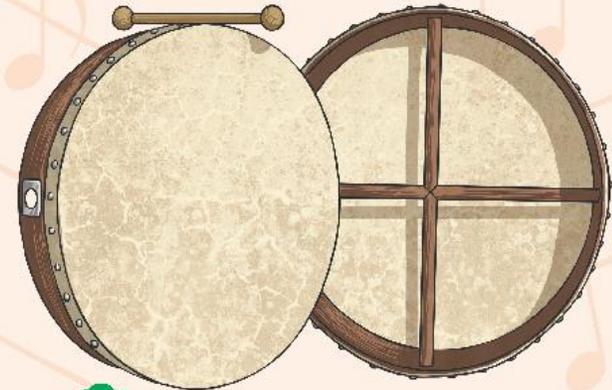
Traditional Irish Instruments Facts

The fiddle and the violin are the same instrument! We call it a fiddle when it is used in traditional Irish music. The fiddle has 4 strings and it is played with a bow. It is one of the most popular instruments used in traditional Irish music.



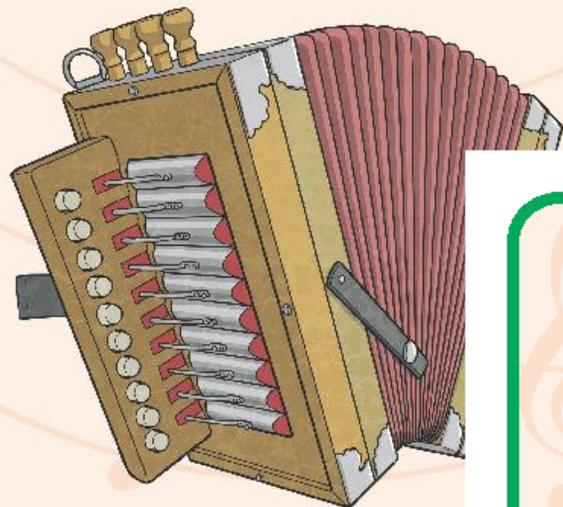
Traditional Irish Instruments Facts

The bodhrán is known as the heartbeat of traditional Irish music. It is a handheld drum. One side of the bodhrán is covered in animal skin, and the other side is open-ended so that the player can place their hand against the skin to change the pitch or sound of the bodhrán.



Traditional Irish Instruments Facts

A melodeon is similar to an accordion. Music is produced by pressing buttons on either end of the melodeon and moving the instrument in and out, depending on what sound you want to achieve.



Traditional Irish Instruments Facts

The tin whistle is also known as the penny whistle. It was first used in traditional Irish music in the 19th century. The tin whistle is a small metal tube with 6 holes and a mouthpiece. It is considered a good starting instrument for traditional Irish musicians. Today, many children up and down the country are being taught how to play the tin whistle in school.



Traditional Irish Instruments Facts

The harp is probably the most famous of all of the traditional Irish instruments. The harp can have up to 47 strings and the sound is produced by plucking the strings. A harp player is called a harpist. It is also one of the oldest instruments in the world. The harp is the official emblem of Ireland.



Now that you know more about traditional Irish instruments watch this live performance by the Chieftains

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7pDiO52xSs> then answer the following questions:

- How many instruments are played during the piece?
- Can you name each instrument?
- What is the mood of the piece?
- Does the mood change during the piece?
- How do the musicians create this change in mood?
- How do people in the video respond to the music? What does it inspire them to do?
- Write a paragraph about which instrument you would like to play (or do play) and why you picked that one.

Chinese Traditional Music

Evidence of Chinese traditional music dates back thousands of years and archaeologists have discovered bone flutes and clay instruments that are over 8,000 years old! Chinese traditional music can be divided into two genres (types) of music; folk and opera. Folk music focuses on using instruments rather than voice and singing and although it is not as popular today as modern music it is still performed all across the country at weddings and funerals. Click [here](#) to link to some traditional Chinese folk music.

Chinese opera music is very different to western opera that we might hear and see in Ireland. In Chinese opera the performers wear very colourful, dramatic face paints and costumes and perform challenging acrobatic moves! Click [here](#) to watch a short video of Chinese opera including a look backstage as the performers apply their stage make-up. See how elaborate and colourful the stage sets are and how the performers make big, dramatic body movements on stage.

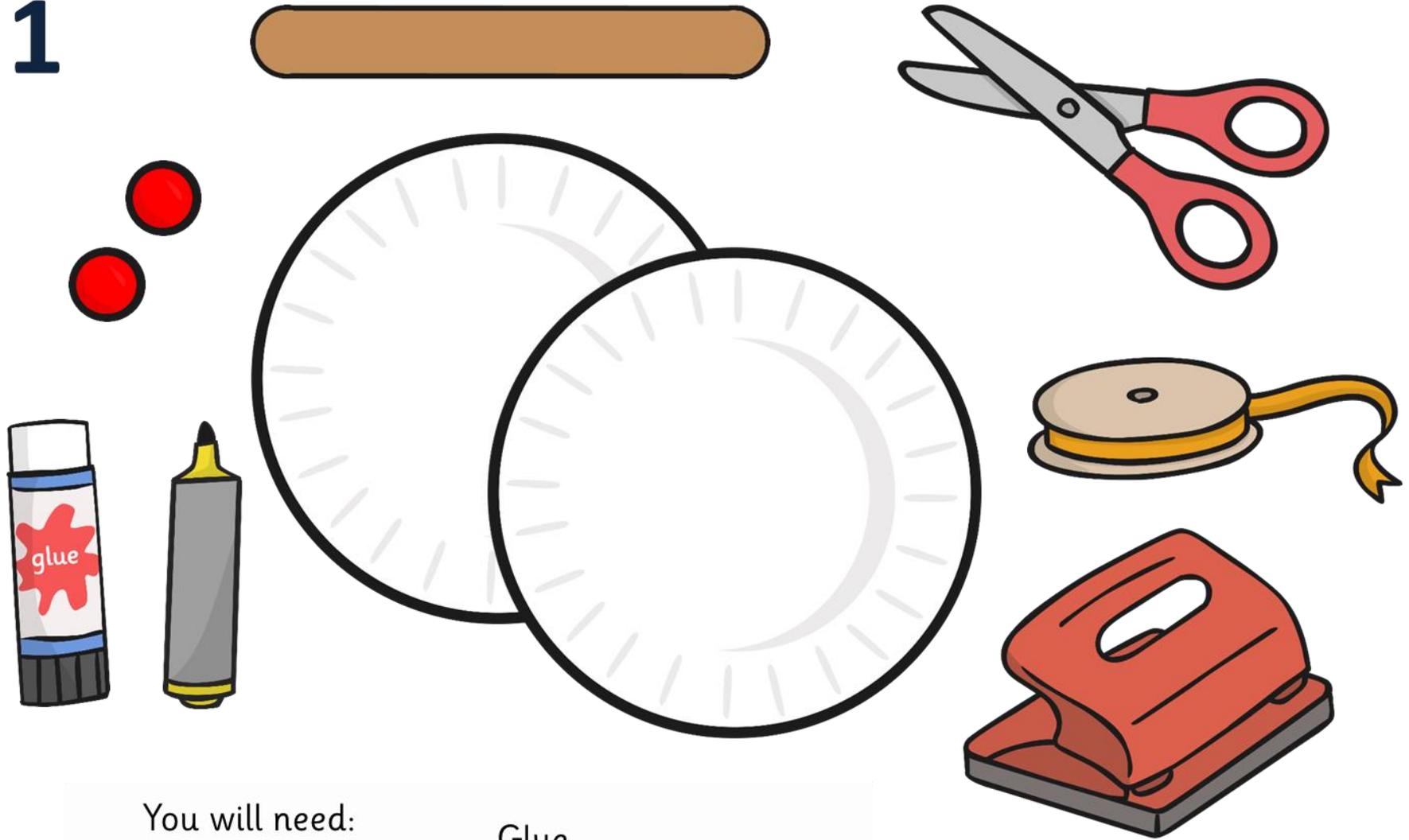


Music is also very important in the celebration of the Chinese New Year. On the following slides you will see instructions for how to make a Chinese paper drum. This is something that children may use to make music when they attend the traditional New Year festivals.



Festival Dragon

1



You will need:
2 paper plates
2 pieces of ribbon
2 beads
Marker pen

Glue
Hole puncher
Scissors
Stencils (if necessary)



2



Decorate the **back** of the 2 paper plates. Use stencils if needed.

Why not choose your favourite colour from this chart and practise writing the Chinese symbol for it. Then when you have perfected it you can write the symbol onto your drum.

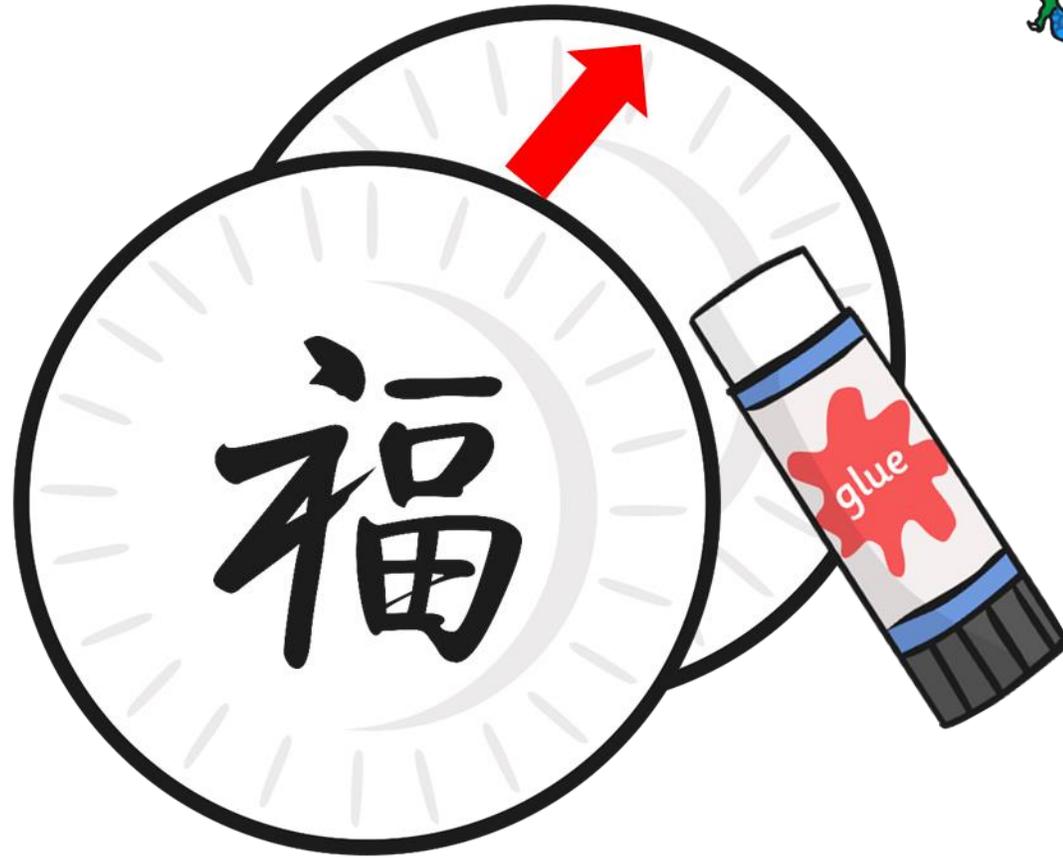
Colors
Simplified Chinese
with pinyin and English

颜色
yán sè colors



©2018 Miss Panda Chinese

3



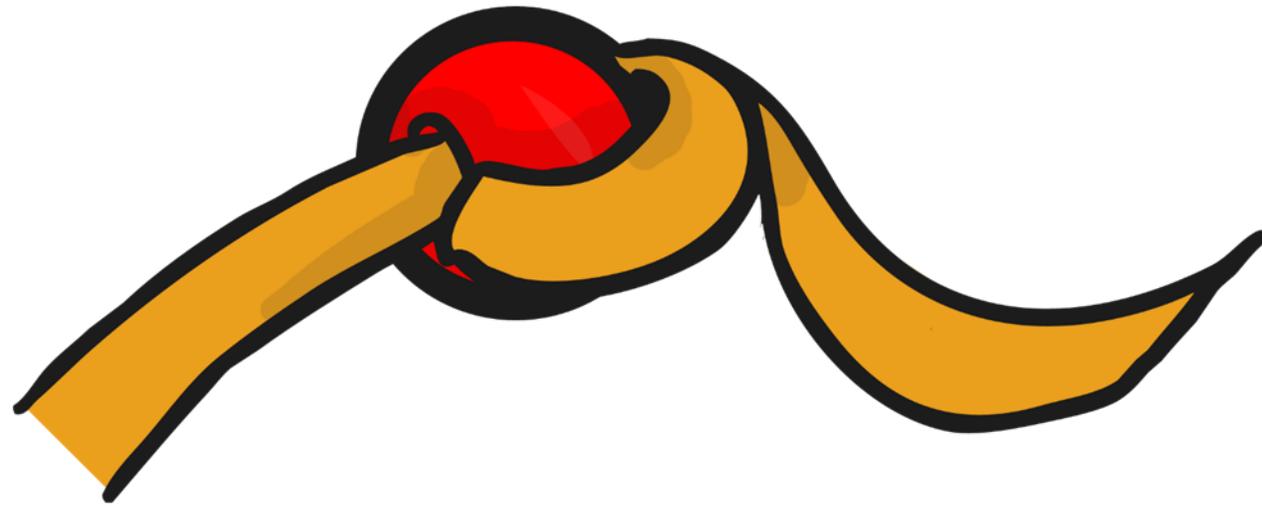
Glue the top sides of the plates together.

4



Punch a hole on either side of the plates and weave a ribbon through the holes.

5



Now tie a bead onto the end of each ribbon.

6



Glue the lolly stick in
between the 2 plates and
you are
ready to drum away!

History – a history of sound

Today, when you listen to music what do you listen to it on? An iPod? Your parent's phone? Your smart TV?

Music players have changed a lot over the years. Let's look at the developments that have been made.

1877 – Phonograph invented



1880's – Vinyl record player invented



1960's – cassette tape and player invented



1980's – CD & CD player invented



1990's – MP3 player invented



Early 2000's – iPod invented



Watch this video on the history of music players:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8eZ1ZeTN_hE

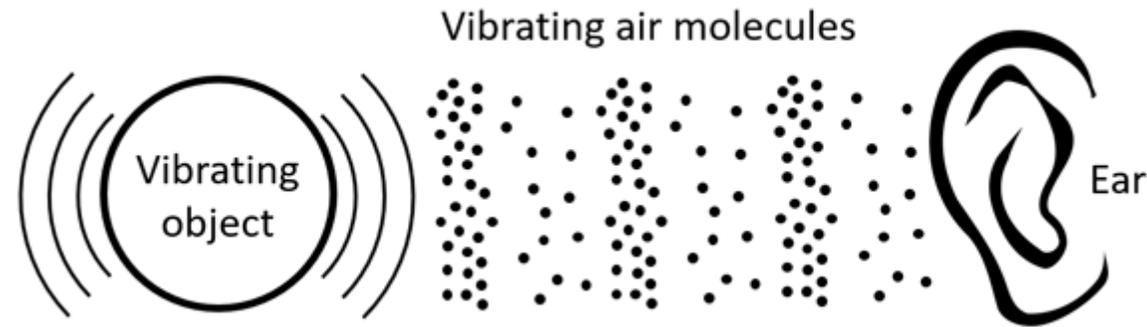
On a page, create your own visual timeline of the developments in music players over the last 150 years.

Why not look up one major historical event from around the time of each invention and add it to your timeline.

For example in the 1960's when the first cassette tapes were being invented Neil Armstrong was training to become the first man to land on the Moon!

Science – the science of sound

We are surrounded by sounds every day. Sounds are caused by **vibrations**, or the rapid back-and-forth motion of an object. These vibrations are transferred to the air molecules right next to the object, which bump into the molecules next to them, and so on, until the vibration reaches our ear.



Sometimes, these vibrations are obvious because they are big enough to see. For example, when you pluck a rubber band, you can see it move back and forth (or if you turn up the bass on a stereo with a large subwoofer, you may be able to see the speaker move).

However, for the majority of sounds we hear every day, these vibrations are too small to see. For example, when you knock on a door, even though you can hear a sound, you can't see the door vibrate at all.

Sometimes you can still *feel* these vibrations even though you can't see them. For example, if you place the palm of your hand on a door while someone else knocks on it, you will feel the knock.

You can also feel your vocal cords vibrate if you put your hand on your throat while you talk!

(this excerpt is from ScienceBuddies.org)

Let's look at an experiment to help us see sound!

You will need:

- An empty tissue box
- Two pencils
- A rubber band



Procedure:

- Place the pencils on top of the box
- Wrap the rubber band around them
- Pluck the rubber band – what do you hear?
- Add different sized rubber bands to pluck – do they make different sounds?



- After you pluck the band touch them with your finger to stop the vibrations – what happens to the sound?
- Move the pencils further apart or closer together – how does this change the sound?

Why not make a short video of you playing your rubber band guitar!

If you enjoyed that experiment then try out this next experiment where you can see sounds dance!

If you don't have an instrument at home for the next experiment, why not play your rubber band guitar next to the glass or even simply hum a tune loudly next to it.

Take some photos to document your science experiment procedure.

Seeing Sound

Carry out this experiment to see how sounds are produced by vibrations.

Learning Objective	To explain how sound is produced by vibrations.
Science Unit	Energy and Forces: Sound
Skills Development	Observing
Materials Needed	Glass/Cup Cling film Elastic band Dry rice Musical instrument 
Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Wrap the cling film over the top of the glass.2. Secure the cling film with elastic bands - make sure it fits tightly.3. Put some grains of rice on the cling film.4. Play the instrument close to the glass.
Scientific Principles	You will see the grains of rice vibrating on the cling film. Sound is created by vibrations. These vibrations travel through the air as a sound wave.

