

MES Beginners World Instruments Pack (MES901)

A special selection of instruments from around the world to introduce younger children to an array of instruments with examples of wood, skin and metal sounds. Create cross-curricular links with this set of easy to play instruments.



Contents:

1. Bamboo Rainstick x 1
2. Maraca x 1
3. Tiny Painted Djembe x 1
4. Caxixi Shaker x 1
5. Large Cow Bell on Rope x 1
6. Straw Star Shaker x 1
7. Bamboo Y Shaker x 1
8. Pair of Indian Wood Claves x 1
9. Shaker x 1
10. Egg Shaker x 1
11. Clapper x 1
12. Hand Drum x 1
13. Bamboo Guiro x 1
14. Ankle Bells x 1

Please note contents and designs may vary.

1. Bamboo Rainstick

From Chile, South America. Also known as a rainmaker, storm stick or waterfall shaker.

Made from a long tube of bamboo, filled with small pebbles or seeds. This instrument creates the sound of falling rain and is ideal for a sound effect instrument. It is believed that rainsticks were used by indigenous farming tribes in arid climates in the hope to bring rainfall for the crops.

2. Maraca

Coconut maraca from Indonesia.

This handcrafted Fair-Trade shaker made in Indonesia, has been made with a polished coconut shell full of beads and mounted onto a turned wooden handle. Indonesia is the biggest exporter of coconuts in the world, so shells of coconuts are readily available. The maraca is a good example of how Indonesians make something worthwhile out of something that would otherwise be a waste product. Coconut shell is used because of its durability and strength.

3. Djembe

From West Africa.

A traditional hand drum. It is shaped like a large goblet with a wide top, narrow waist and flared base. It is usually carved from a single piece of wood with a skin head. It is played with bare hands and can produce low bass sounds by hitting the drum with a flat palm, medium sounds by hitting the edge of the drum with fingers together and high sounds produced by hitting the edge of the drum with fingers cupped and relaxed.

4. Caxixi Straw Shaker

Found across Africa and south America (Brazil and Cuba).

A percussion instrument consisting of a closed hand-woven basket with a flat bottom, with seeds or other small particles inside. The instrument produces different sounds depending on how it is played.

5. Cow Bell

From Indonesia.

Named after the bells used by herdsman to track their cattle. The bell is held by the handle or rope and shaken to produce a rhythmic sound.

6. Straw Star Shaker

Handcrafted from Bali, Indonesia. Also known as Draco shakers.

Features a three-headed design that has been made from flat woven straw. The instrument creates a gentle pleasing sound.

7. Bamboo Y Shaker

From Indonesia.

Made from bamboo with coconut discs suspended along a wire bar.

8. Wooden Claves

From India.

This pair of light mango wood claves are Fair-Trade and handmade in India. Claves are an important percussion instrument and are often used to play a repeating rhythmic pattern known as a 'clave.' To get the best sound from the claves, one stick is held in one hand supported between the thumb and the fingertips with the palm cupped. This turns the hand into a resonating chamber and increases the volume when struck with the other stick.

9. Shaker

From Indonesia.

Named after the Swahili word for noise. Kelele shakers are made with a simple gravel filled wooden barrel on a stick. They can be played by shaking or twisting the wrist to produce different sounds. They produce a crisp, high-pitched cha-cha sound.

10. Egg Shaker

Originating from Africa and popular in Latin American music, particularly samba.

A small hand-held egg-shaped percussion instrument filled with beads or seeds. Ideal for little hands and great for exploring rhythms and sounds.

11. Clapper

Originating from India.

Made from mango wood. This instrument consists of a long handle with two smaller pieces of wood attached by elasticated cord. The clapper makes a mottled clave sound when shaken.

12. Hand Drum

From Bali, Indonesia. Also known as - pellet drum, monkey drum

This Fair-Trade hand drum is played by vertically placing the handle between the outstretched hands so that the head is above the thumbs. By rubbing the hands together, the drum rotates causing the attached beads to quickly strike each face. How many ways can the hand drum be played?

13. Bamboo Guiro

From Bali, Indonesia

This Fair-Trade guiro is made from a slice of thick bamboo with chunky ridges producing a rich, percussive noise when rubbed with the attached striker. The guiro has been finished with a simple burnt etching technique and dot painting. These bamboo guiros are handmade in Bali using fast growing and inexpensive bamboo, making their production more environmentally friendly.

14. Ankle Bells

From Indonesia

Ankle bells are worn just above the ankle by dancers and performers and allow the audience to fully appreciate the rhythmic aspects and complex footwork of the dance. An individual bell is called a ghungroo and one dancer may have as many as 200 bells on each ankle! They are widely used in competitive bhangra as well as classical Indian traditions and dances.

Fair Trade

Fair Trade is a worldwide movement that aims to help producers in less economically developed countries, whether they be handicraft producers or farmers. The term Fair Trade means that producers receive a fair price for the goods they produce.

Each instrument included in this pack can be a way to teach and learn about the principles of Fair Trade. Teaching the principles of Fair Trade provides learning opportunities in many areas of learning, including PSED/PSHE, Understanding the World and Geography. The instruments have been sourced by Siesta, who have been a member of [BAFTS](#) (the British Association for Fair Trade Shops and Suppliers) for over 25 years and are also a BAFTS recognised Fair Trade importer.

Most of the suppliers of the instruments in this pack are small family businesses employing only a few people; Siesta tries to keep them in continuous work, enabling their businesses to grow. Nearly everything in this pack is handmade with materials being sustainably sourced, and traditional skills being kept alive.

Explore further – What are the 10 Principles of Fair Trade? How does Fair Trade help producers? Research the many organisations around the world, including Fairtrade Foundation, the British Association for Fair Trade Shops and Suppliers (BAFTS) and World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO).

The instruments in the Beginners World Instrument Pack can be used in a variety of ways with children of different ages. They are perfect for creating discussions and making music.

- Create cross-curricular links and cover elements of the Music, Geography, Art and Design curriculum.
- Explore a range of different percussion instruments and find out where in the world they come from.
- Introduce the resources during whole class teaching and provide time for hands-on exploration in small groups.
- Group and sort the instruments according to the materials they are made from and how they are played e.g. shaken, plucked, tapped, scraped.
- Add the instruments to tabletop areas and promote independent investigation.



Ideas and suggestions

Here are some examples of ways you could use them.

1. Mystery Instrument

Introduce the instruments without naming or identifying them.

Give the pupils time to work together to guess what the instruments are called and how they can be played.

Encourage the pupils to identify what materials the instruments are made of.

2. Hands-On Instrument Exploration

Identify and name each of the instruments.

Explain the material the instruments are made from and give time for small groups to handle each instrument.

Watch videos to see how they are played and experiment to create different sounds.

3. Instrument Investigation

Encourage the pupils to look at elements of the instrument that can be adapted.

Talk about pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre and texture.

Encourage the pupils to discuss their preferences.

4. Music Challenge

In small groups assign a leader (*a maestro*).

The leader starts with a simple pattern, and the group repeats it back using the instrument they have. Swap instruments and roles.

Can the leader change the pattern and introduce more complex sequences?

5. Geography

Use a world map to name and locate Indonesia, where most of these instruments are made.

Research Indonesia. Think about the flag, culture, food, history and landmarks.

Create a fact file using the information gathered.

6. Art and Design

Explore the origins of dot painting.

Look at the dot painting on some of the instruments.

Design and create an instrument and decorate with dot painting.