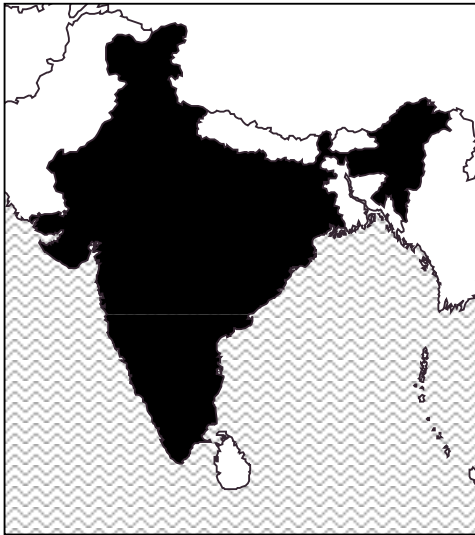


Name: _____

TABLA DRUMS - INDIA



drums tuned to different pitches set in ascending order from low notes on the left to higher notes on the right. This is called tabla tarang. Tabla drums are often used to accompany the sitar.

drums tuned to different pitches set in ascending order from low notes on the left to higher notes on the right. This is called tabla tarang. Tabla drums are often used to accompany the sitar.

Things to do:

Draw a picture of a pair of tabla and answer true or false to the following statements:

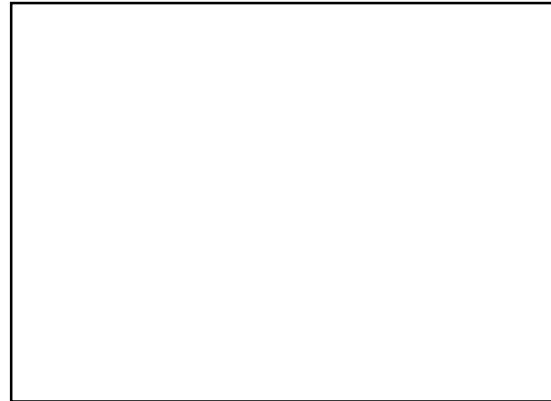


Tabla drums which come from Northern India consist of a pair of drums. The smaller drum plays the high notes and the bigger drum the lower notes. The smaller drum is played with the right hand and is tuned using the tuning blocks on the side of the instrument. This drum is called a dayan and is almost always made of wood.

The larger drum, played with the left hand is called a bayan. The bayan may be made of iron, aluminium, copper, steel or clay; although brass with a chrome plate is the most common material. The bayan drum is not tuned as it is only used to play rhythms.

Tabla drums always have a large black spot on the top. These black spots are a mixture of gum, soot and iron filings. Their function is to create the bell-like sound that is characteristic of the instrument.

Although the origin of tabla is somewhat obscure, it is generally believed that it evolved from the barrel shaped drum called pakhawaj around two hundred years ago. Often performers use several dayan tabla

1. The smaller drum in the tabla is called a dayan? _____
2. The bayan drum is a tuned percussion instrument? _____
3. Tabla drums always have a large black spot on the top? _____
4. The tabla drum evolved from an older drum called the pakhawaj? _____
5. A group of tabla drums grouped together is called a harangue? _____



Name: _____

THE SHEKERE - CUBA & THE AXATSE - GHANA



The Shekere



Cuba

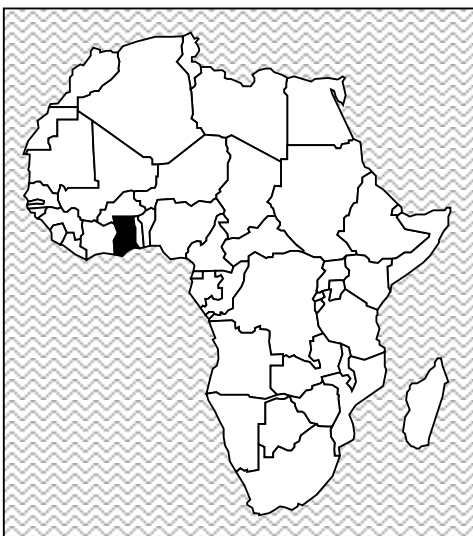
In Brazil there is a very similar instrument to this called the Xequ Bum!

The axatse gourd usually has a rounder shape and is also covered by a net with seeds or nuts woven into it. Unlike the shekere players hang the axatse on their body and then beat the instrument with their hands.

The axatse from Ghana and shekere from Cuba are very similar instruments although found in very different parts of the world. The shekere is made using a gourd which is covered by a net of beads or seeds. Different sounds are made by using different types and sizes of beads and seeds. A gourd is the large fruit of a trailing plant which has been dried. The instrument is usually held at the top and bottom and different rhythms are produced by tilting the instrument and making the beads scrape across the gourd.

Now answer these questions on a separate sheet:

1. What is a gourd?
2. How is the sound produced on an axatse?
3. List as many items that you can think of that would be used to make the sound on a shekere or axatse?
4. Where is the shekere found?
5. Where is the axatse found?
6. What is the Brazilian version of this instrument called?



Ghana



The Axatse