

West African Drumming Knowledge Organiser



Djembe

- Our piece, *Kuku*, originates from the Manian ethnic group in Guinea and the Ivory Coast, who speak the Malinké dialect
- Traditionally accompanied a circle dance performed by women to celebrate a successful night of fishing.
- *Kuku* is very popular throughout West Africa and is now played at parties.

- Improvisation – making it up as you go along
- Master Drummer – the leader of the performance
- Call and Response – one person plays/sings and the others reply
- Polyrhythms – multiple rhythms played together
- Syncopation – off-beat rhythms
- Percussion – instruments that you shake/hit to make a sound
- Rhythm – the pattern of long/short notes
- Texture – the layers of sound
- Structure – the overall plan of the piece of music
- Sonority – the sound of the instruments
- Dynamics – how loud/quiet the music is

