West African Drumming Knowledge Organiser



Djembe

Mauritania Mali Daka Senega Niamey The Gambia Burkina Guinea-Bissau Faso Sierra Leone Ghana Côte d'Ivoire Liberia Abidian

- 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

and Principe Libreville
Gabon Republic of the Congo

Democratic Republic of the Congo Rwant -



Gulf of Guinea