

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

# Gamelan Music of Indonesia



A **gamelan** is a **traditional music group** from **Indonesia**. Indonesia is the name given to a group of islands in the **Indian ocean**.

In Indonesia, gamelan music is considered **sacred** and believed to have supernatural power. People believe that the **instruments are guided by spirits**.

Musicians **take off their shoes** when they play in a gamelan and **do not step over their instruments in case it offends the spirits**.

The **instruments** in a gamelan are **mainly percussion** and include **gongs, metallophones, xylophones, drums, cymbals, and flutes**. The instruments are mainly made from **bronze**.

The instruments in a gamelan are tuned to a **5 note scale** called a **slendro**.

**Gamelan music is always performed in groups**, so there is no place for an individual to show off.

Gamelan is **only played at certain occasions** including **ritual ceremonies** and for the **royal family**.

The **word 'gamelan'** comes from the **Javanese word 'gamel'** which means to **strike or hammer**.

# Gamelan Questions

***Now that you have read the information sheet, please answer the following questions.***

1. What is a gamelan?

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2. What do musicians do before they play in a gamelan?

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3. Name three instruments that can be found in a gamelan.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. What material are gamelan instruments usually made from? Underline your choice from the options below.

**Silver**

**Plastic**

**Wood**

**Bronze**

5. Name two occasions at which gamelan music might be performed.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is the name of the 5 note scale to which all gamelan instruments are tuned?

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