Name: _____ Date: _____

Music from an Oil Barrel

Circle group

The steel pan is an instrument that began on the islands of Trinidad and Tobago. People there made the first ones from empty oil barrels. A barrel that held oil came to hold music.

To make a steel pan, a maker pounds the top of the barrel into a bowl shape. Then the maker marks sections on the bowl. Each section makes one note. Big sections make low notes. Small sections make high notes.

The player holds two sticks with soft rubber tips. The player taps the sections. Each one rings like a bell.

Players make a steel band. Some pans play the tune. Others play the low notes. Together they sound sunny and full.

Questions

1. Where did the steel pan begin?

_____

_____

2. What were the first pans made from?

_____

_____

3. How is the top of the barrel shaped?

_____

_____

4. Which sections make the low notes?

_____

_____

5. Why might the sticks have soft rubber tips?

_____

_____

6. Why does a band use pans of different sizes?

_____

_____

Words to know

barrels: large round containers that hold liquid
sections: separate parts of a whole
pounds: hits again and again with force
tune: the main song that you can hum

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Music from an Oil Barrel

Triangle group

The steel pan is a musical instrument that began on the islands of Trinidad and Tobago. People there made the first ones from empty oil barrels. A barrel that once held oil became something that holds music.

To make a steel pan, a maker pounds the top of the barrel until it sinks into a bowl shape. Then the maker marks out sections on the bowl. Each section is shaped to make one note. Larger sections make lower notes. Smaller sections make higher notes.

The player holds two sticks with soft rubber tips and taps the sections. The tapped section rings with a bright, ringing sound that is a little like a bell.

Players often make a whole steel band. Some pans play the tune, and others play the low notes that fill in the bottom of the music. Together, they sound sunny and full.

Questions

1. Where did the steel pan begin?

_____

_____

2. What were the first steel pans made from?

_____

_____

3. How does the maker shape the top of the barrel?

_____

_____

4. Which sections make the lower notes?

_____

_____

5. What do the sticks have on their tips, and why might that matter?

_____

_____

6. Why does a steel band use pans of different sizes?

_____

_____

Words to know

barrels: large round containers that hold liquid
sections: separate parts of a whole
ringing: making a clear sound that lasts a moment
pounds: hits again and again with force
tune: the main song that you can hum

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Music from an Oil Barrel

Square group

The steel pan is a musical instrument that originated on the islands of Trinidad and Tobago, where people made the first ones from empty oil barrels. A container that once held oil was transformed into something that holds music.

To build a steel pan, a maker pounds the top of the barrel until it sinks into the shape of a bowl. The maker then marks out sections across the bowl, and each section is shaped to sound one note. Larger sections produce lower notes, while smaller sections produce higher ones.

The player grips two sticks with soft rubber tips and taps the sections. Each tapped section rings with a bright sound that is somewhat like a bell.

Musicians often form an entire steel band. Some pans carry the melody, and others supply the low notes that support the bottom of the music. Together, they sound sunny and full.

Questions

1. Where did the steel pan originate?

_____

_____

2. What were the first steel pans made from?

_____

_____

3. How does the maker shape the top of the barrel?

_____

_____

4. Which sections produce the lower notes?

_____

_____

5. Why might the sticks have soft rubber tips?

_____

_____

6. Why does a steel band include pans of different sizes?

_____

_____

Words to know

barrels: large round containers that hold liquid
sections: separate parts of a whole
pounds: hits again and again with force

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Music from an Oil Barrel

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Music from an Oil Barrel

Easier · 115 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.1

1. On the islands of Trinidad and Tobago.
2. Empty oil barrels.
3. It is pounded into a bowl shape.
4. The big sections.
5. To make a ringing sound instead of a harsh bang.
6. Some play the tune and some play low notes, so it sounds full.

Triangle: Music from an Oil Barrel

This passage · 145 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.2

1. On the islands of Trinidad and Tobago.
2. Empty oil barrels.
3. By pounding it into a bowl shape.
4. The larger sections.
5. Soft rubber, which gives a ringing sound instead of a harsh bang.
6. Some play the tune and others play the low notes, so the music sounds full.

Square: Music from an Oil Barrel

Harder · 148 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.9

1. On the islands of Trinidad and Tobago.
2. Empty oil barrels.
3. By pounding it into the shape of a bowl.
4. The larger sections.
5. Soft tips produce a bright ringing sound instead of a harsh bang.
6. Some carry the melody and others supply low notes, which makes the music sound full.