

# Global Music Lesson Plans

## Lesson 5: Metallic Sounds – the Caribbean, UK and USA

**Age range 5–7**

**Time required: 40 minutes.**

### **Activity:**

Listening, identifying, appraising and comparing metallic sounds produced by a variety of instruments and ‘sound makers’.

### **Aims:**

- To explore different sound sources.
- To explore the expressive use of sound.
- To explore what types of materials can be recycled to make musical instruments e.g. steel pans.

### **Pupils will learn:**

- To differentiate between metallic and non-metallic sounds.
- That the materials that musical instruments are made from, and the timbres they produce, are the same across the world.
- About the environmental impact of waste, and the related benefits of recycling waste.

### **Web links you will need:**

- Images and audio of ‘junk’ objects being used to make music. You can find excellent examples at <http://www.junkmusic.org>
- Video clip of oil drums as musical instruments in the ‘Stomp’ stage show. You may be able to find Stomp videos online, such as on YouTube. Unfortunately, we can no longer offer a direct link.
- Audio clip of ‘Lisbon Antigua’ played by the Toucans Steel Band:  
[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/global\\_music\\_lesson\\_plans/5-7/files/toucans.html](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/global_music_lesson_plans/5-7/files/toucans.html)
- Image of the youth steel pans band, the Love City Pan Dragons. You can find a suitable image on Google Image Search.
- Online ‘virtual pan player’: <http://www.playcarnival.com/apps/panplayer.htm>

### Items you will need:

- A range of classroom percussion instruments including metallic instruments, such as triangles, tambourines, cow bells etc.
- Some cooking pans, lids, cheese graters, and/or other metallic objects that produce sounds when struck.
- Some objects which might normally be discarded in the recycling bin, such as cardboard tubing, milk cartons, plastic containers, foil pastry cases, bottles etc.

Useful Information
--------------------

<p>Steel pans music is popular across the world, and is associated with carnivals and parties. Steel pans were originally made from metal oil drums discarded by oil companies on the islands of the Caribbean. It was discovered that, if one end of an oil drum was beaten inwards to form a concave surface, individual pitches could be tuned by shaping different areas of the newly formed surface. Similarly, if the oil drums were cut into different lengths, a range of pans of different pitches could be created.</p> <p>More recently, Junk ensembles have become popular in the UK and Western world. The music and dance group 'Stomp' was perhaps the first to exploit everyday and junk objects for music making. Importantly, these groups challenge our assumptions about musical instruments and open up new possibilities with a wide range of sound makers.</p>
---

Lesson Plan	Metallic Sounds – the Caribbean, UK and USA (Age range 5-7)
<b>Starter</b>	<p>Display images/videos of <u>'junk' objects used as instruments</u>. Ask pupils to identify some of the objects in the picture. Point out that certain objects are 'junk' and have been recycled into musical instruments. Others are everyday objects.</p> <p>Let the pupils know that during this lesson they will be learning more about metallic sounds and recycled instruments, and making their own music with some unusual things!</p>

<b>Main</b>	<p>Begin by playing an audio clip that has been played on ‘junk’ instruments. Can the pupils identify the timbre? Ask the class to stand up and march in time with the song.</p> <p>Pass around some metallic kitchen utensils and beaters e.g. a cooking pan, a wok, a pair of spoons, a cheese grater. Can the pupils produce a sound on the objects? Can they find two or three different sounds on each instrument? Can they describe each sound?</p> <p>Point out that it’s not always small objects that can be used to make music. Show the class the video of ‘Walkers’, where Stomp use <u>oil drums as musical instruments</u>. Ask the pupils what are being used to make music here, and how are they being used? If necessary, point out that each of the dancers has oil drums strapped to their feet which they strike with broom sticks to vary the sound.</p> <p>Play an excerpt of ‘Lisbon Antigua’ performed by the <u>Toucans Steel Band</u>. from the Caribbean. Ask pupils to compare it with the sound of the Stomp video. How was it similar? How was it different? Point out that one big difference was that the steel pans could play melodies i.e. the instruments were pitched.</p> <p>Display the image of the youth steel pans band the <u>Love City Pan Dragons</u> and point out the different-sized pans and the way that they are struck by short beaters.</p> <p>Explain briefly the origin of steel pans (see useful information) and the way in which sounds are produced. Explain that steel pans are a good example of the way in which some materials can be recycled into instruments. Briefly discuss why recycling is important.</p>
<b>Plenary</b>	<p>What objects can they think of that are in their recycling bin at home? Which of these items could be made into musical instruments or sound makers, and how would they be ‘played’?</p> <p>OR: Display a number of objects taken from the recycling bin and ask pupils to make sounds on them.</p>