

**Key concepts**

- Ndebele is the native language spoken by Bantu people, which is an ethnic group living in South Africa.
- A 'call and response' song is when a question is sung, followed by an answer.
- Chords can be played as 'minor' or 'major' and as a 'progression'.
- Songs can be sung 'a cappella'. This translates as 'in the manor of the chapel. It is Italian.
- African music is always accompanied by dancing.
- Music often includes 'rests'.
- African drumming groups always have a 'master drummer'.
- A musical composition often includes a 'break'.
- Music is sometimes learned 'by ear', which means it is held in the aural memory and is not played by reading notation.

**Key Vocabulary**

solo	A performance by a single person
duet	A performance by two people
Tuned	An instrument that can make different notes
untuned	An instrument with no definite pitch, such as a bass drum
Chord progression	A succession of chords
metronome	A device that keeps steady time
break	A short section, different to everything else played
A cappella	A song sung without music
rests	Silences
djembe	Traditional African drum
lyrics	Words to accompany music

**Features of African Music**

The features of African music include:

Lyrics in a foreign language

Voice effects from the choir

Unusual instruments (especially drums)

Click-clock sounds

(Some African languages contain 'click' consonants). There are five click consonants.

**The Click Consonants**

- @ the bilabial click
- / the dental click
- ! the alveolar click
- # the palatal click
- // the lateral click

**African Instruments**

*Lyre*



A wooden stringed musical instrument having a yoke, or two arms and a crossbar

*Mbira*



A board with attached staggered metal tines

*Djembe*



A rope-tuned skin-covered goblet drum

*African Xylophone*



**The importance of Music to Africans**

Music is a form of communication and it plays a functional role in African society.

- Songs accompany marriage, birth, rites of passage, hunting and even political activities.
- Music is often used in different African cultures to ward off evil spirits and to pay respects to good spirits, the dead and ancestors.