

Artifact 1: Sri Lanka
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Sri Lanka: Geta Bera drum music
Primary Activity

Background Information: Music is an integral part of Sri Lankan culture. The traditional music of Sri Lanka was derived from the elements of nature. Music, dance and art are part of everything Sri Lankans do. Drums, blowing instruments, and strings instruments are used in Sri Lankan traditional music. The Geta Bera is the main drum is a drum that is used with traditional Kandyan dances. There are two openings on the drum to create different sounds. One opening is covered with monkey skin while the other opening is covered with cattle skin. Geta Bera drums are played with bare hands.

Small Group Activity: After teacher instruction, students in groups of 3-4 will create their own dance to the song “Bera(Drums) Prior To Maha Pirith”. After creating a dance, the groups will perform their dance for the rest of the class.

Whole Group Activity: Teacher will give a brief lesson on Sri Lankan music, playing the “Bera(Drums) Prior To Maha Pirith” song (from Reference 1) for the students. Teacher will explain that Geta Beta drum music often accompanies traditional dance and that dance is often used to represent feelings or special events. Students will watch a video of Kandyan dance (Reference 3) and the class will compare and contrast the Kandyan dance to dances they have seen in the United States.

Individual Activity: After teacher instruction, the song, “Bera(Drums) Prior To Maha Pirith” will be played for the students. Students will be given a feeling, spreading out around the room to do their own dance to the song that represents their given feeling.

References: 1. Laktunes. (2008). *Bera(drums) prior to maha pirith*. Retrieved October 9, 2008, from <http://www.laktunes.com/MusicSearch/servlet/findSongs?findByCategory=Go&catid=30&category=Free%20Downloads>.
2. Virtual Library – Sri Lanka. (2008). *Drums of Sri Lanka*. Retrieved October 9, 2008, from <http://www.lankalibrary.com/rit/drums.htm>.
3. Top LK Video. (2008). *Sri Lankan traditional dance*. Retrieved October 9, 2008, from http://www.toplkvideo.com/index.php?option=com_seyret&task=videodirectlink&id=470&Itemid=2

Sri Lanka: Geta Bera drum music
Intermediate Activity

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Small Group Activity: After making the Geta Bera drums students, will get in groups of 4-5 to write their own song using their newly made instruments.

Whole Group Activity: Teacher will provide a brief lesson on Sri Lankan music, playing the “Bera(Drums) Prior To Maha Pirith” song (from Reference 1) for the students. Teacher will show enlarged pictures of various Sri Lankan drums, ending with the Geta Bera drum. The class will compare and contrast the different drums.

Individual Activity: Students will create their own Geta Bera drums using coffee cans with the bottom already taken out, balloons, wax paper and ribbon. The balloon will be stretched over one opening to represent monkey skin (one sound) and the wax paper put over the other opening for the cattle skin (the other sound). Ribbon will be attached to allow for the drum to be worn around the waist.

References: 1. Laktunes. (2008). *Bera(drums) prior to maha pirith*. Retrieved October 9, 2008, from <http://www.laktunes.com/MusicSearch/servlet/findSongs?findByCategory=Go&catid=30&category=Free%20Downloads>.
2. Virtual Library – Sri Lanka. (2008). *Drums of Sri Lanka*. Retrieved October 9, 2008, from <http://www.lankalibrary.com/rit/drums.htm>.
3. Sri Lanka Reference. (2008). *Sri Lanka art, music & dance*. Retrieved October 9, 2008, from <http://www.info.lk/srilanka/srilankaculture/srilankaart.htm>.

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Primary Assessment

1. Sri Lankan music came from:
 - a. music from other countries
 - b. nature
 - c. art

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Intermediate Assessment

1. What are the two openings on the Geta Bera drum covered with?
 - a. monkey skin and donkey skin
 - b. monkey skin and cattle skin
 - c. cattle skin and snake skin
 - d. cattle skin for both openings