

## Funga – African Drum Rhythm with Nondi Wontanara

Grades 3 – 5

This lesson introduces students to the base, tone, and slap sounds made with the djembe and dun dun drums and challenges students to create their own rhythms using these tones.

**Materials:** Objects that make different sounds (optional); Phone or some type of recording device (optional)

### The Lesson:

#### **Part 1**

*Summary* - Give the names of each of the drums, the kenkeni, sangban, duns, and djembe. Focus on the djembe. Explain the base, tone, and slap sounds made with the djembe. Teach a Funga accompaniment that students can tap out on a table, their laps, anything that produces a sound.

*Challenge 1* - Find different items in your home that produce a base, tone, and slap sound. Put those items together to play the Funga rhythm.

*Challenge 2* - Listen closely to the Funga rhythm. Which sound is played most frequently, the base or the tone sound? Tally how many times each is played in one phrase of the rhythm.

#### **Part 2**

*Summary* - Review the types of drums. Focus on the duns. Connect the base, tone, slap information from the previous lesson to the kenkeni, sangban, and duns. Students will play the Funga rhythm using the items they found around the house, or just tap it out on a table or their lap as before.

*Challenge* - Play your own inspired rhythm using all three sounds. What materials did you find that make those sounds? Why do you think they work for your rhythm?

#### **Part 3**

*Summary* - Begin playing the Funga rhythm. Focus on the duns. Explain how traditionally each drum is played by one person. Demonstrate how each part of the duns have their own distinct pattern. Break down the patterns of the duns and kenkeni, then demonstrate how each fit into the whole rhythm.

*Challenge* - Listen to the Funga rhythm. Identify the pattern of the sangban drum. Tap out that rhythm on the object you found in your home that makes the sound of the sangban.

### Connection to the Nevada Academic Content Standards for the Fine Arts

- Creating: Conceiving and developing new artistic work and ideas.
- Performing: Realizing artistic ideas and work through interpretation and presentation.

**Music Standards: MU:Cr3.3.2** - Present the final version of personal created music to others and describe connection to expressive intent.

**Nevada English Language Arts Standards: SL.4.1d** - Review the key ideas expressed and explain their own ideas and understanding in the light of the discussion.

### Connection to Literacy:

This lesson connects with literacy through the challenge options that are outlined in the lesson. Each section of the lesson offers students the opportunity to utilize what they have learned and apply it in a manner that activates creative expression and growth in an academic context. The challenges give students the opportunity to use higher level thinking skills to justify their thinking and express it through a speaking/presentation component.

### [About the Artist](#)

#### **Nondi Wontanara**

Nondi Wontanara Multi-Cultural Performing Arts Company is a performing arts group that was started in Las Vegas in March of 2015. The members of the group have been a part of the grassroots Las Vegas dance community for a combined total of 20 years, and have trained with master instructors from Guinea, Senegal, Mali, Ghana, and the Ivory Coast. These dance and drum enthusiasts came together to share with the world the beauty of traditional African cultures by singing, dancing, and drumming traditional rhythms from countries throughout the western region of Africa. Nondi Wontanara aims to educate the community and build an appreciation of the beautiful and rich traditions of African culture.

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### **Nevada Arts Council Teaching Artist Roster**

*The Nevada Arts Council Teaching Artist Roster* is an online resource for schools, organizations and communities seeking to engage teaching artists. Roster artists are experienced in collaborating with schools and communities to conduct arts learning and cultural experiences in, through and about the arts.

Explore the roster at <https://www.nvartscouncil.org/rosters/teaching-artists/>