

ROOTS OF RHYTHM – CHAPTER 4: THE *DJEMBÉ* FROM GUINEA
FUNSHEET

Name _____

Date _____

FILL IT IN: THE *DJEMBÉ*

The *djembé* is a wooden, hand drum played in Guinea, West Africa. Its goblet shape gives the performer both high and low pitches. The drum's sound can be changed with the addition of metal sheets with metal rings attached that buzz sound when the animal skin drumhead is struck. Nylon or rope cords tighten the drum. The drummer carries the instrument on a cloth strap around the neck, necessary for moving around while accompanying dancers. To get the drummers started in the performance, the lead *djembé* drummer uses a rhythmic signal. This rhythm is also used to tell the dancers when to change their steps. Two of the many types of *djembé* dance rhythms are *Aconcon* in 8 counts and *Doundoumba* in 12 counts. This type of drumming requires the performer to be in excellent physical condition.

Directions. Answer these questions about the *djembé*.

1. How does the *djembé* get a buzzing sound?

2. How does a lead drummer use a signal rhythm?

3. List some of the materials that you think might be used to make the *djembé*.

The *Djembé* and Performer



Olugbala Manns

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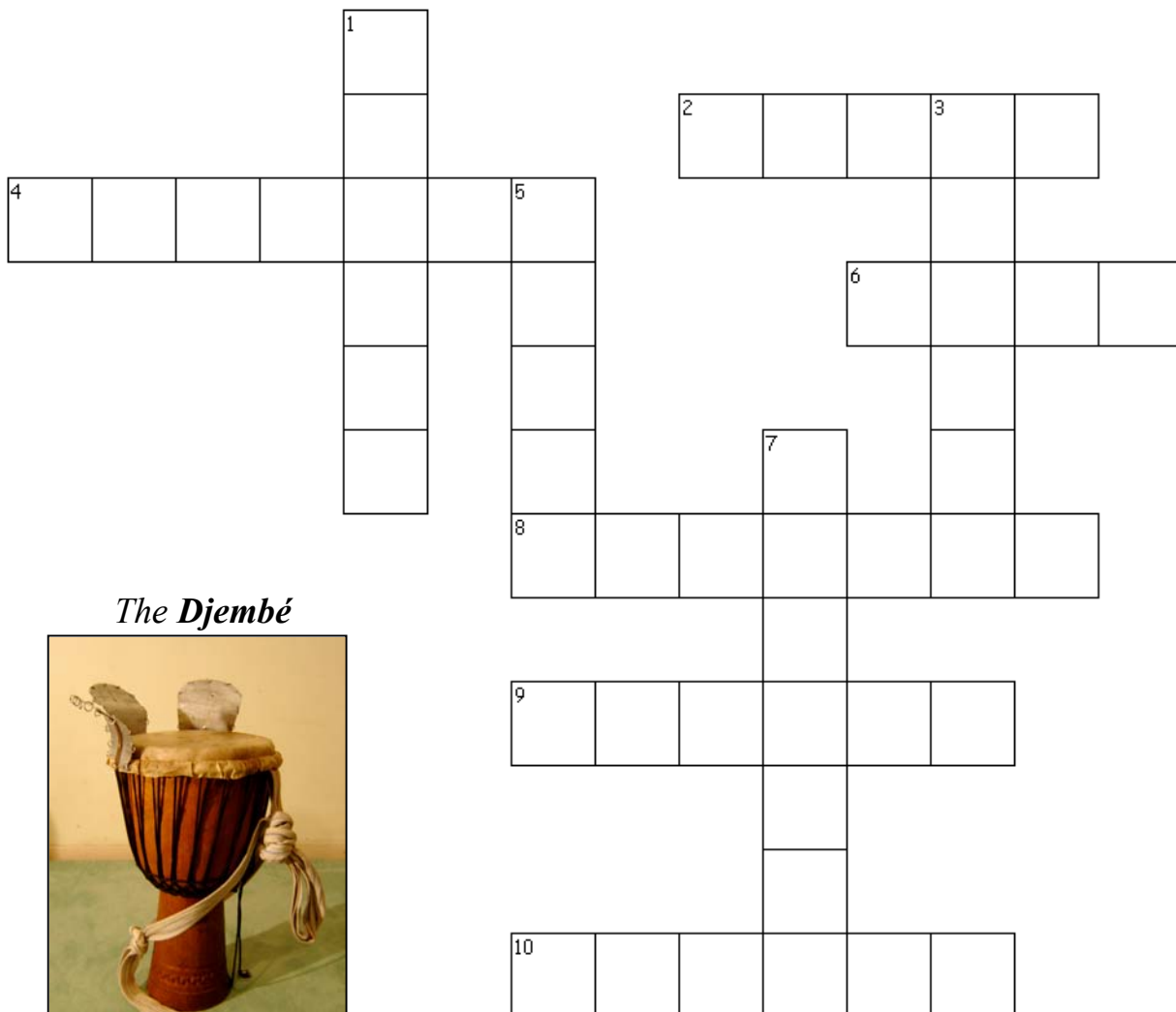
Directions: Use the facts about the *djembé* that you have learned about in the paragraph and photographs, and complete the crossword puzzle.

Across:

2. The *djembé* is played with two _____.
4. *Djembé* drummers accompany _____.
6. The *djembé's* bottom is held between the _____.
8. The *djembé* has high and low _____.
9. _____ is a country in West Africa.
10. A _____ rhythm starts a performance.

Down

1. _____ is the number of counts in *Doundoumba*.
3. A goblet-shaped drum from Guinea is called a _____.
5. The *djembé* is carried with a _____.
7. An eight count *djembé* rhythm is _____.



The Djembé

