

ROOTS OF RHYTHM  
CHAPTER 7: THE LAKOTA DRUM FROM NORTH AMERICA  
FUNSHEET

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPARE AND CONTRAST: THE LAKOTA DRUM**

**Directions:** *A Venn diagram is a chart that shows similarities and differences between two things. First, read the paragraphs below and then think of at least five things to write in the Venn diagram for each outer part of the rounded shape (differences) and five things to write in the intersecting part (similarities).*

The **Lakota Drum** is a frame drum with one drumhead used by the Lakota in South Dakota. While holding the drum's handle with the left hand, the drummer strikes the drumhead with a long, padded beater with the right hand. Sometimes the drummer will add a buzz to the drum's sound by slightly touching the drumhead with the left index finger. One important 3-count rhythm is the "heartbeat rhythm," because it sounds like a beating heart. It is played to accompany singing and dancing at social events like a powwow and official ceremonies.

The Lakotas, or Oglalas, mostly live on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota and have a population of almost 21,000. The climate in this area can be extremely hot or cold. The state is named after one of the three Oglala tribes, the Dakotas. The eight teepees on the Lakota's flag symbolize the eight Reservation districts. British settlers built colonies in North America in the 1600's and began to push the Native Americans westward forcing the Lakotas onto reservations in the 1800s. This legal issue has yet to be settled by the Lakota nation.

The **tabla** is a set of two small kettledrums from India. By playing the head of each drum with the fingers and hands, the drummer can quickly change the pitch of each drum. Drummers use syllables for *tabla* sounds in a type of "drum" language. The syllable "naa" sounds like "naa" on the drum. One important 16-count rhythm is *Tal Tintal* (tol teen-tol). It is played to accompany singing and dancing in concerts and is used for meditation.

India, a country in South Asia, is one-third the size of the United States and it has a population of over 1 billion. The climate can be cold, hot, or rainy depending on the area. India has some of the most fertile soil in the world. The blue wheel in the center of the flag symbolizes the idea human chakras, or centers of energy in the body. The area of North India was first invaded in 1500 B.C., but rule by outsiders ended when India gained its independence from Great Britain in 1947.

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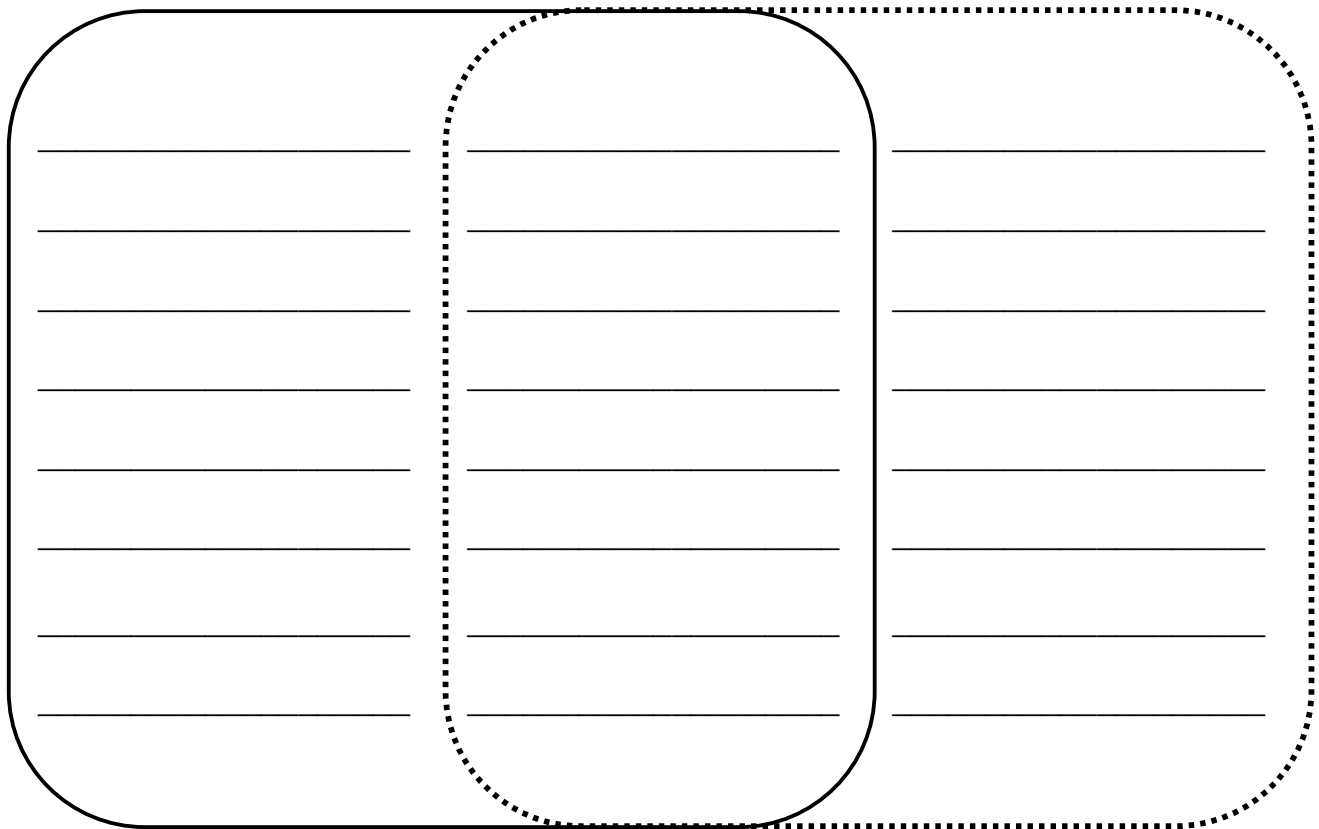
*The  
Lakota  
Drum*



*Lakota Flag*



**A Venn Diagram for the Lakota Drum and *Tabla***



*The  
Tabla*



*Flag of India*

