

ROOTS OF RHYTHM – CHAPTER 9: THE *RANĀT ĒK* FROM THAILAND
FUNSHEET

Name _____

Date _____

FILL IT IN: THE *RANĀT ĒK*

The *ranāt ēk* (raw-not ek) is a wooden xylophone played in Thailand, a country that is located in Southeast Asia. This country, once called Siam, stretches north to south and at one area is very narrow (see map). The *ranāt ēk* performer plays an important part, the leader or conductor, in an ensemble or group of musicians called *pī phat* (bee pot). Most of the instruments in the group are percussion, but one is a blowing instrument called *pī nai* (bee nye). The word xylophone means "wood sound." It is played with two mallets with long handles so that all of the notes or bars can be reached easily. Much of the time the performer plays a "roll," fast alternating strokes...right, left, right, left, etc. This way the performer can play sustained notes as well as single hits. The performer often plays very fast and often hits in octaves (notes that are eight bars apart) at the same time. Because of this, the *ranāt ēk* players need to use their peripheral vision, that is, they have to be able to see many bars without looking at each one directly. The *ranāt ēk* performer sits on the floor, and plays music sometimes to accompany dancers.

Directions. Answer these questions about the *ranāt ēk*.

The Ranāt ēk



1. How does the *ranāt ēk* player sustain notes?

2. Looking at the map of Thailand, what part of the country gets very narrow?

northern

central

southern

3. Write a description of the *ranāt ēk* as shown in the photograph. For example, how many bars or notes are there? How is it supported and decorated?

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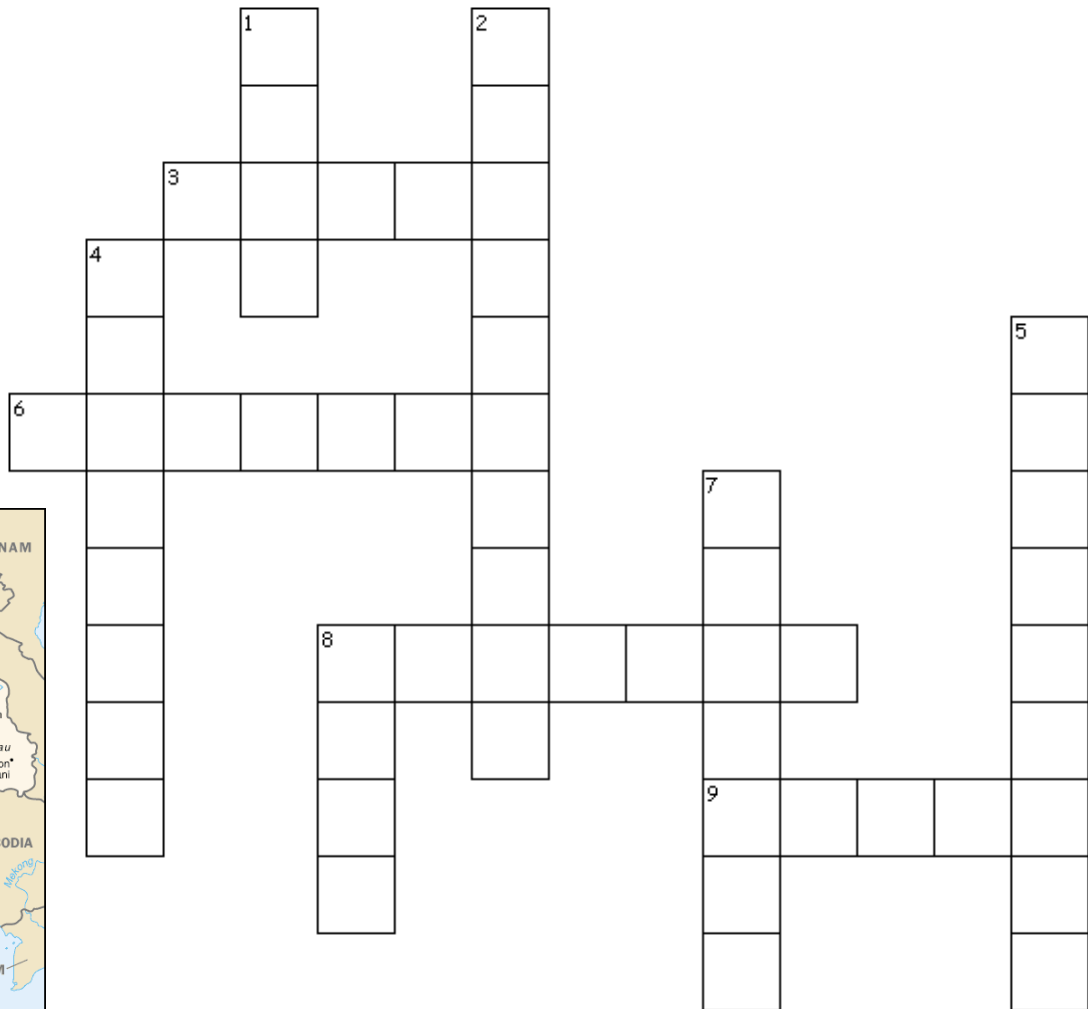
Directions: Use the facts about the *ranāt ēk* that you have learned about in the paragraph and photographs and complete the puzzle.

Across:

- 3. The *ranāt ēk* player sits on the _____.
- 6. The *ranāt ēk* is played with two _____.
- 8. The *pī nai* is a _____ instrument.
- 9. *Ranāt ēk* players can play _____ bars apart at the same time.

Down:

- 1. Fast alternating strokes
- 2. The *ranāt ēk* is a _____ instrument.
- 4. Country in Southeast Asia
- 5. The *ranāt ēk* is a leader or _____.
- 7. *Ranāt ēk* music can accompany _____.
- 8. The notes on a *ranāt ēk* are also called _____.



Map of Thailand