

ROOTS OF RHYTHM: EXTENSIONS
CHAPTER 2: THE SNARE DRUM FROM SWITZERLAND
FUNSHEET

Name _____

Date _____

FILL IT IN: THE SNARE DRUM

The snare drum is a double-headed cylindrical drum, mostly played with two sticks, that has a special buzzing device called a snare. The snares are cords or coiled wires fastened so as to vibrate against the bottom drumhead making each stroke sound like "snap" or "buzz." This type of drum is played all over the world, but has its origins with a small snare drum called *tabor* that was used in Europe in the 1300s. Later drummers in Switzerland developed certain rhythms called rudiments for use as military signals. For example, the Swiss rudiment R-LLR-L meant get "your weapons." The Swiss rudiments are still very important today.

The Swiss learned about large snare drums from invading Turkish armies who used large groups of percussion instruments in their military or Janissary (jan-uh-sehr-ee) bands to inspire and signal their soldiers. These large drums were carried at an angle during battles and in camp so they were called "field drums" or "side drums." In the 1900s, large orchestras in Europe started using smaller snare drums made from wood and metal frames. Until the 1950's snare drums had calfskin drumheads and catgut snares. Now most have strong, hi-tech plastic drumheads and coiled wire snares. Today, drummers use many types of snare drums in jazz, rock, hip-hop, classical concerts, and drum and bugle corps.

Directions. Answer these questions about the snare drum.

The Snare Drum on a stand

1. How does the snare drum make a buzzing sound on each stroke?

2. List some materials for making a snare drum.



Dr. Craig Woodson

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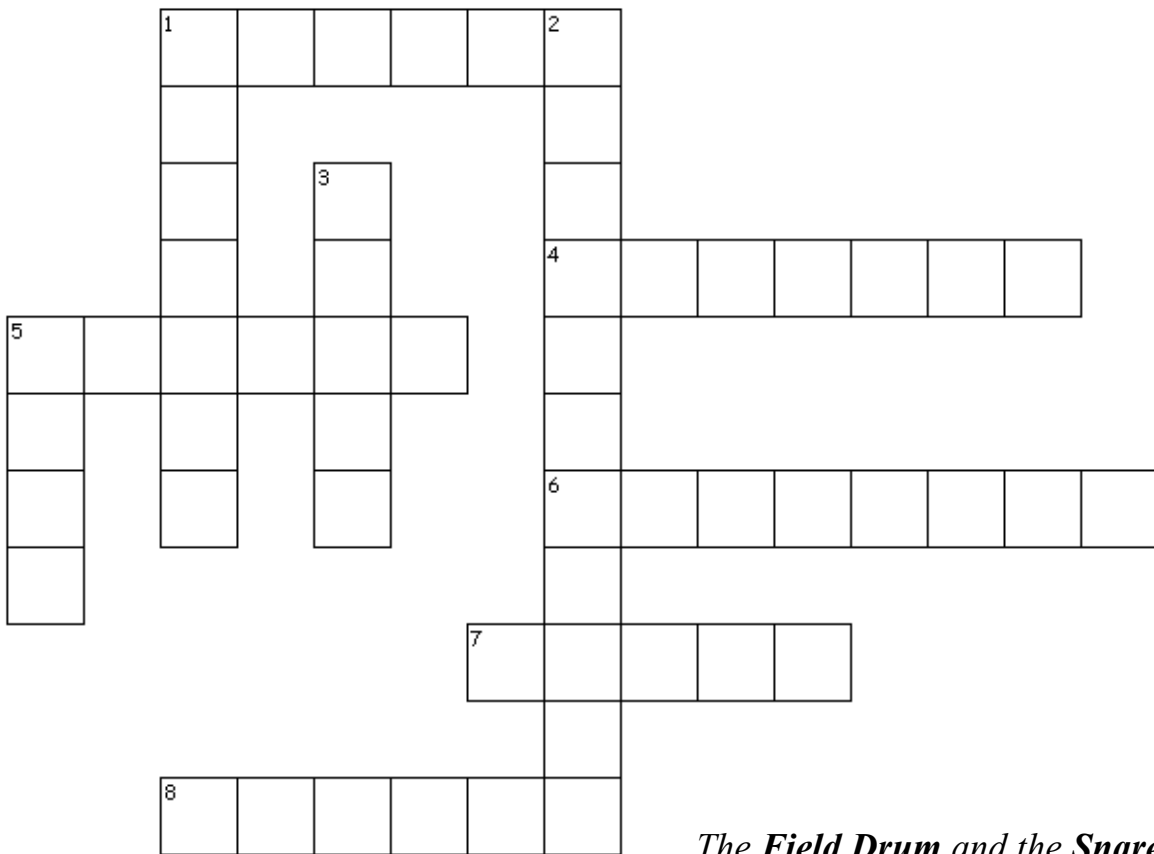
Directions: Use the facts about the snare drum that you have learned about in the paragraph and photographs, and complete the crossword puzzle.

Across:

1. Snare drummers play with two _____.
4. Swiss drummers learned from _____ armies.
5. _____ are usually on the bottom drumhead.
6. R-LLR-L on the snare drum is a Swiss _____.
7. A _____ is a small, old European snare drum.
8. Snares can be made of _____ wires.

Down

1. Turkish armies used snare drums for _____.
2. _____ is a country in Europe.
3. A _____ drum was carried during a battle.
5. Snares can sound like _____.



The Field Drum and the Snare Drum

