

ROOTS OF RHYTHM: EXTENSIONS
CHAPTER 4: THE *TABLA* FROM INDIA
FUNSHEET

Name _____

Date _____

COMPARE AND CONTRAST IT: THE *TABLA*

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 ***tabla*** (tah-blah) 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 over 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.

The ***dondo*** (done-doh) is an hourglass-shaped drum from Ghana. By squeezing the cords connecting the two drumheads under the left arm and hitting one head with a stick, the performer can quickly change the drum's pitch. *Dondo* drummers use this technique to talk on the drum. The lead drummer will call to the other drummers with his "talking drum," and say, "come and perform." One important 12-count rhythm is *Adowa* (ah-doh-wah). It is played to accompany singing and dancing, and is performed at social events, official ceremonies, and even funerals.

Ghana, a country in West Africa, is slightly smaller than the state of Oregon and it has a population of almost 21 million. The country has a tropical climate and has the world's largest artificial lake. The black star on the country's flag symbolizes African freedom. European countries colonized the country beginning in 1471, ending with the British in the 1900s. In 1957, Ghana became the first African country to gain independence colonial rule.

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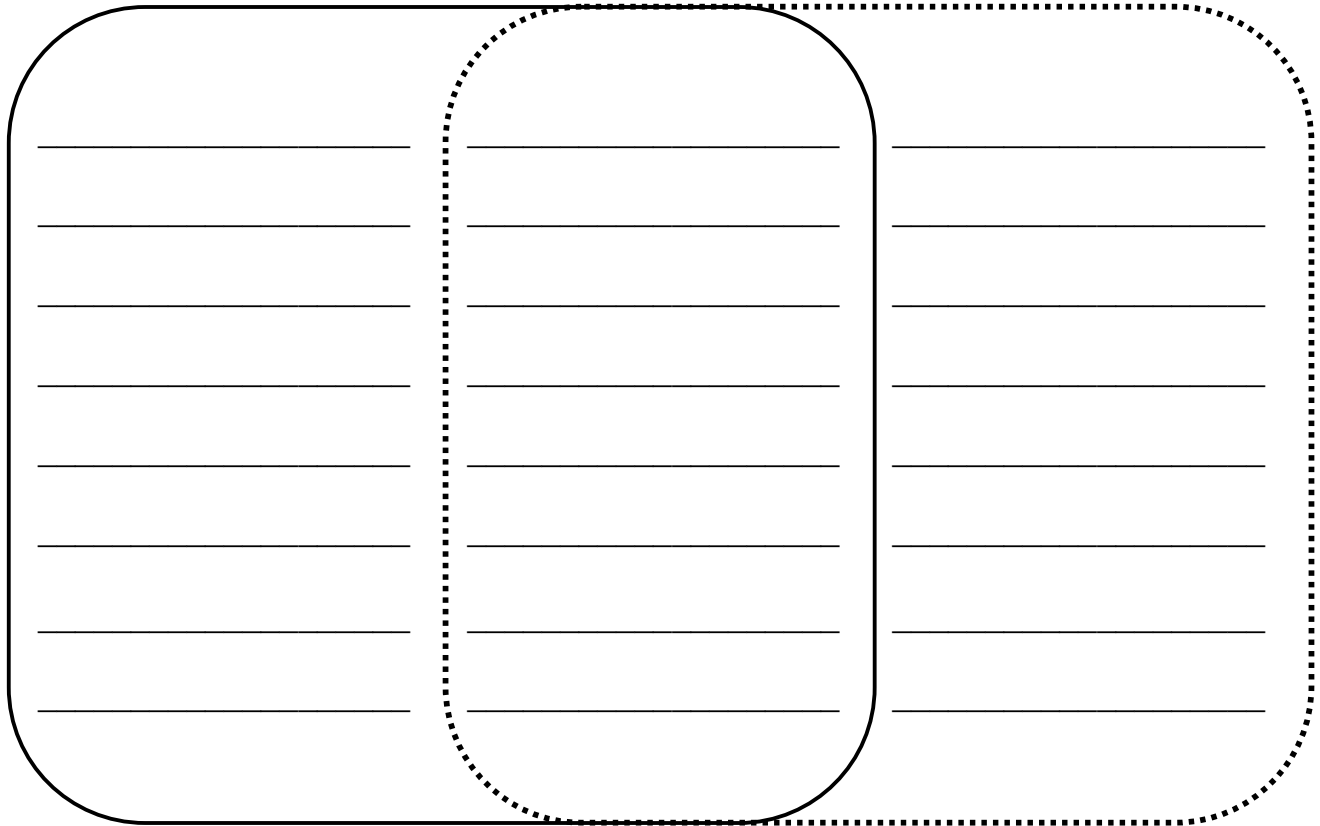
*The
Tabla*



Flag of India



A Venn Diagram for the *Tabla* and *Dondo*



*The
Dondo*



Flag of Ghana

