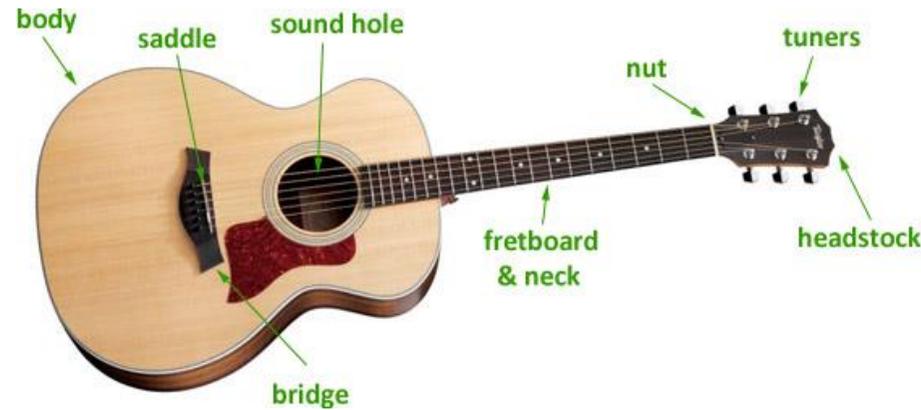


Key vocabulary:

Guitar
Strings
Pattern
Chord
Melody
Resonate
Plectrum
Fret
Rhythm
Upstroke
Downstroke
Pluck
Strum

Playing the acoustic guitar



The science:

Guitars are stringed instruments. Traditional acoustic guitars have six strings tuned to the notes E, A, D, G, B and E.

When a string is plucked, this causes the string to vibrate, which produces sound. This sound enters the body of the guitar through the sound hole and resonates.

The pitch of a string can be altered in a number of ways:

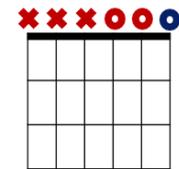
The shorter the string, the higher the note.

The thinner the string, the higher the note.

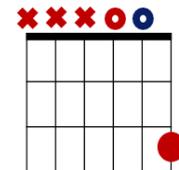
Chords:

Chords are created when more than one note is played at the same time:

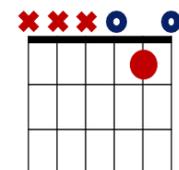
Easy Em



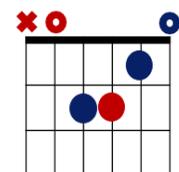
Easy G



Easy C



Am



Listening:

Songbird – Oasis (Em and G)

You can't always get what you want – Glee (G and C)

Shake it off – Taylor Swift
(Am, Em, G and C)

Vocabulary:

Djembe – A skin covered hand drum meant to be played with bare hands.

Dun dun – A larger drum played with sticks.

Agogo Bells – Bells with two tones. Played with a beater.

Shakira - Shaker

Poly-rhythms – When a number of rhythms are played at the same time.

Improvise – Making rhythm up on the spot.

Solo – Playing individually.

Tempo – The speed of the rhythm.

Syncopation – Rhythm played on the off-beat.

Call and Response – When one leader plays a pattern and others copy.

Ostinato – Repeating pattern.

African Drumming



Djembe



Dun dun



Agogo bells



Shakira

Playing the djembe:



Djembes are played with the bare hands. Different sounds can be achieved by playing the drum skin in different places:

When the skin is struck in the centre using the whole hand, this makes a 'bass' sound (a deeper louder sound).

When the skin is struck along the edge of the drum using just the fingers, a higher-pitched sound can be achieved.

The best overall sound can be achieved by tilting the djembe slightly to allow the sound to resonate.

Rhythms:



Walk the big dog



Coca-cola tea cof - fee tea



My name is Jo - se

Vocabulary:

Xylophone – From the Greek meaning ‘wooden sound’.

Glockenspiel – From the German meaning ‘metal sound’.

Melody – The ‘tune’ that can be created by playing one note at a time.

Beater – The stick used to strike the instrument.

Chord – When more than one note is played at a time.

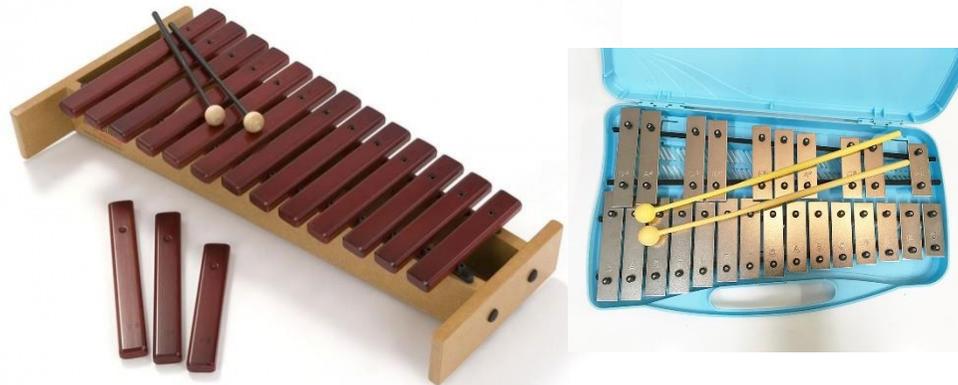
Ostinato – A repeating pattern.

Notes – The names given to each note to determine the pitch.

Keys – the wooden or metal parts of the instrument, these are usually printed with the note names.

Improvisation - Making up a melody as you go along.

Tuned Percussion



The Science:

Xylophones and glockenspiels are both examples of tuned percussion instruments. They have keys which vibrate when hit with a beater. These vibrations cause the air around them to vibrate and these vibrations travel through the air to your ear.

The keys on these instruments have note names which relate to their different pitches.

The larger the note, the lower the pitch.

The smaller the note, the higher the pitch.

Xylophones have keys made of wood, whereas glockenspiels have keys made of metal. This creates a different timbre (sound quality).

Holding your beater:

When playing these instruments, you must hold your beater carefully.

Wrap your hand around the beater.

Do not hold the stick too tight as this will prevent the key from vibrating when you hit it.

Keep your wrist loose. Tensing will make your wrist sore.

Listening – music using a variety of different tuned percussion instruments.

Attraction - Emmanuel Séjourné

Six Marimbas – Steve Reich

Moonlight Sonata – Beethoven

‘Opening’ from

Glassworks – Phillip Glass