

# Rhythm and African Drumming

Year 7, Autumn 2



**What is a rhythm?** Rhythms are patterns of notes, made from notes of different durations and rests.

Rhythms are played to a steady **pulse** (the heartbeat of a piece of music)

## Different note values:



**Crotchet – one beat**



**Quaver – half a beat. Which is usually seen**

**joined with another quaver.**



**Crotchet rest – one beat of silence**

## African Drumming

Traditional African music uses lots of **percussion**, especially drums. A typical African drum is a **djembe**.

Djembe's are traditionally made from wood and animal skin, and can produce different tones depending on how and where you hit them.

African music uses call and response and polyrhythm.

**Call and response:** When a musical phrase is played by a musician or vocalist (usually a solo) which is then repeated back by usually a larger group of instruments or vocalists.

**Polyrhythm:** Two or more different rhythms played at the same time, with the same number of beats per bar.

### Skills developed:

- To learn to read, write and play rhythms with different note values and rests.
- To develop the skill to play within an ensemble.
- To develop the skill to perform polyrhythms whilst keeping to a steady pulse.
- To develop the skill to compose a piece of African-style music within a group.