

The Fine Arts of Japan:

The Art of Ancient Taiko Drumming &

Ancient Samurai Costumes vs. Star Wars



Overview

Students will learn about the ancient art of Taiko drumming in Japan. They will listen to various recordings of the drumming music and will discover the amount of discipline, both mental and physical that a musician must develop in order to master this ancient art of playing Japanese music. After exploring this percussive music of Japan, students will discover other artistic influences that Japan has developed particularly in the film industry of today.

Education Standards

Fine Arts: TEKS 5.1 B (1) Foundations: music literacy.

(B) distinguish among a variety of musical timbres, including those of woodwind, brass, string, percussion, keyboard, electronic instruments, and instruments of various cultures.

TEKS 5.5C

(5) Historical and cultural relevance. The student examines music in relation to history and cultures. The student is expected to:

(C) identify and describe music from diverse genres, styles, periods, and cultures.

Materials Needed

- Recordings of taiko drumming (3 links for discussions)
- Taiko Drumming Links
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZagsLrNzg3I>
 - <https://youtu.be/CsKqBy2uJ34>
 - <https://youtu.be/6mxc5BbR8S4?list=UUMWiVrvHQAIBj2G2e607utw>

Ancient Samurai Costumes Vs. Star Wars Link-

- <https://www.insidejapantours.com/blog/2015/12/17/sith-and-samurai/>
- Paper and pencil to record answers
- Picture sheet of costumes

Vocabulary

Taiko any kind of Japanese drum

Wadaiko also sometimes called Japanese drum

Kumi-daiko an ensemble of Japanese drums

Student Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. learn what the style of Taiko drumming is and what drums are in the ensemble.
2. listen to various Taiko drumming recordings and discuss in groups what they hear.
3. understand the discipline, both physical and mental that is required to be a Taiko drummer.
4. discover the artistic influences that Japan has had over the film industry especially in Star Wars costuming.
5. Discover and analyze the similarities and differences in Star Wars costumes vs. ancient samurai warrior costumes.



Activity

1. The teacher will have students recall what they liked about the Japan concert from Musical Sprouts. Ask students if they can recall what the special drums used were called.
2. The teacher will then write on the Board: Taiko Drumming: What do you hear? What does it take to be a taiko drummer? How does this style of music make you feel?
3. The teacher will show 5 minutes of each youtube link of various Taiko drummers. After each clip, ask students to write answers to the following questions and to share with their group. The teacher will discuss what it takes to be a taiko drummer; **strong arms, mentally and physically prepared, stay in unison, be disciplined and practice**. Discuss how this music made them feel.
4. Teacher will then change the focus to the costumes of ancient samurais. The teacher will pass out 6 pictures to each group and will ask them to compare the pictures and to match the ones they think resemble each other. The teacher will then use the link provided to show the students how Star Wars costumes were influenced by ancient samurai clothing and costumes.
5. Think-Pair-Share: Discuss similarities and differences among the costumes. Tell your partner what has changed and what has stayed the same.

Extension:

Students can create their own Star Wars or Samurai character mask. What would you name your character? And what would his role be in the Star Wars movie?

