



Sahar El Khatib

Drum lesson

Lesson Title: Babatunde Olatunji – African Drumming

Grades: 1st to 5th grade

Projected time: 1 hour

Supplies needed:

Internet to watch **Babatunde Olatunji – African Drumming** on YouTube.

English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-MnJzpLyWA>

Project Intro:

Watch a film documentary about drumming, taught by master drummer Babatunde Olatunji. Born on April 7, 1927 and died on April 6, 2003, Babatunde Olatunji was a Nigerian master drummer, educator, social activist, and recording arts, and in this film, he will demonstrate and teach the methods of drumming. Answer the following questions while watching, you can pause for each segment.

Questions:

First segment from 00:00 - 5:36

This is an introductory musical representation of African songs and rhythms.

1. Did you enjoy the music?
2. Did you feel like dancing to the music?

Second segment 5:41 – 9:32

In this introduction Babatunde introduces the drum as a ‘wonderful, powerful, provocative, universal instrument.’ The drum is an instrument that expresses our inner feelings, an instrument that describes the true meaning of African music. In Africa, women were the ones who created rhythm by singing, clapping, and tapping their feet to amuse themselves.

1. What are drums made of?
2. What is the purpose of the drum?
Circle the following answers that you feel are right.

Archaeology	healing	mathematics	community
Philosophy	rocket science	bringing people together	communication
Art	music	culture	tradition

Third segment 10: 00 – 18:39

Essential concepts and principles.

1. How do you play a drum?
2. How do you prepare yourself for drumming?
3. Repeat the phrase: I am the drum, you are the drum, and we are the drum.
(I really like this phrase, do you?)

Fourth segment 18:40 – 25:03

Telling a story with the voices of the drums.

1. What did you understand from the story of the first fire created?
2. How did you feel when the drums told the story of the first fire?

Fifth segment 25:07 – 59:21

How to produce the voices of the drums.

Sounds of the drum as spoken by drummers from Nigeria, speaking the Yoruba language.

GUN

GO – DO

PA -TA

‘If you can sing it or say it, then you can play it on your drum.’

1. How do you place your hands on the drum?
2. How do you play GUN sound, and where do you place your hands on the drum when playing the GUN sound?
3. Repeat the phrases after Babatunde. You can play on your lap, or a table if you don't have a drum.
4. How do you play GO-DO sound, and where do you place your hands on the drum when playing the GO-DO sound?
5. How do you play PA-TA sound, or the Slap?
6. Repeat the phrases after Babatunde for the remaining of the film, and enjoy the rhythmical African drumming. Now you can play and have fun playing the drums!