

Teacher Guidance: Playing the Dhol

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- Start by getting children to experiment with beating the dhol on each side.
- Can they beat a pattern? Try left, right, left, right.
- What about left, left, right, left, left, right?
- Encourage children to work with a friend to create a rhythm. You could even have your very own Bollywood performance session!



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B Is for Bollywood

Dhol Drum Activity



Bollywood is the name given to the Indian film industry. Bollywood films feature music, song and dance, drawing influence from traditional folk music such as Bhangra as well as modern music such as hip hop. One of the main instruments used in Bhangra music is the dhol, which is a traditional drum.



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You Will Need:

- A cylindrical container with a lid (a clean gravy granule tub, coffee pot or tin)
- Felt or construction paper
- Sticky tape
- A 'strap' (ribbon, an old belt or cord, or finger-knit a strap!)
- Coloured wool
- A small piece of thick card (10cm or less)
- A pair of chopsticks

What to Do:

1. Cut your strap to the right length. It should hang your dhol from around your neck to your stomach.
2. Cut a length of felt or paper so that it wraps around your cylindrical container. Decorate it with a pattern or bright colours to match the Bollywood theme. Then, tape it into place around the container.
3. Dhol drums are often decorated with tassels. Make a tassel with the wool by wrapping lengths of wool around the small piece of card. When you have a thick wrap, slip the wool off the card, tie a piece of wool around one end securely and cut through the opposite side to create a fringe. Attach to the band around the drum.
4. Use chopsticks as beaters.

