

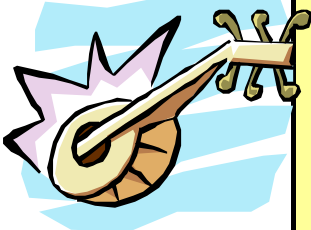
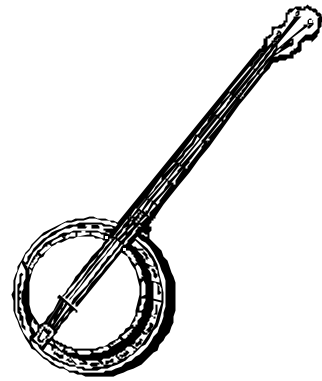
Instruments used in folk music

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There are many different types of instruments used in folk music. These are used to accompany the songs.

1. THE BANJO

The Banjo is a very important instrument in folk and country music. It developed from string instruments brought to the USA from Africa over two hundred years ago. It has a set of strings which are plucked by the player's fingers or with a plectrum. The notes are changed by pressing the strings onto the thin metal rods called frets, like a guitar.



2. THE MANDOLIN

The mandolin is a small string instrument with a high, bright sound. It is tuned like a violin. However, instead of using a bow on the strings, the player plucks the strings with their fingers or a plectrum. This instrument was invented in Europe centuries ago. At that time the instruments had round backs. The ones used in modern folk music usually have flat backs which makes them easier to hold and play.

Activities

1. In your own words describe how the banjo and mandolin are used in folk music and the differences between these instruments. Aim to write 5-10 paragraphs.
2. Using musical dictionaries and any reference books/CDs find out about some other instruments that are commonly used in folk music.