

Name:

Day One

Connecting Through Drums

Part 1: Silent read

→ Can drumming be a way to connect with your culture? Read silently.

Dom, dom, dom, dom goes the beat of the drum. Jayne swings her arms in big arcs above her head. Her drumsticks, called *bachi*, hit the drum, one after the other. Sometimes the sounds are really loud and deep. Other times the sounds are softer or brighter in tone.

Jayne is performing with a group playing *taiko*. Taiko is the Japanese word for drum and a type of music played on drums. These drummers are part of a taiko group in the United States. As the group plays together, their rhythm patterns make exciting drum “songs.” The drums ring out, and the audience cheers.

Jayne is American, and so was her father. She had never heard taiko until she was an adult. Her grandparents were immigrants from Japan. They wanted to fit in as Americans, so they didn’t speak Japanese at home. And they didn’t hold onto their Japanese culture.

In Japan, taiko was first played in religious ceremonies. It was also played for festivals or to spur on warriors in battle. Some say the drum’s sound even marked village borders.

In 1968, a man named Tanaka started the first North American taiko group. Taiko helped Japanese-Americans reconnect with Japanese traditions. And it introduced others to a beautiful and unusual musical form.

Today, there are thousands of American taiko groups. They have developed a uniquely American type of taiko, influenced by other cultures and different styles of music. People from many backgrounds play taiko in the U.S.



Day One

// one minute

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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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82
95
104

Jayne is American, and so was her father. She had never heard taiko until she was an adult. Her grandparents were immigrants from Japan. They wanted to fit in as Americans, so they didn’t speak Japanese at home. And they didn’t hold onto their Japanese culture. 121
134
148
150

In Japan, taiko was first played in religious ceremonies. It was also played for festivals or to spur on warriors in battle. Some say the drum’s sound even marked village borders. 164
179
181

In 1968, a man named Tanaka started the first North American taiko group. Taiko helped Japanese-Americans reconnect with Japanese traditions. And it introduced others to a beautiful and unusual musical form. 195
205
213

Today, there are thousands of American taiko groups. They have developed a uniquely American type of taiko, influenced by other cultures and different styles of music. People from many backgrounds play taiko in the U.S. 225
238
248

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What is taiko?

How many taiko groups are there in the U.S. today?

Day One

Connecting Through Drums

Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Dom, / dom, / dom, / dom / goes the beat of the drum. // Jayne swings her arms / in big arcs above her head. // Her drumsticks, / called *bachi*, / hit the drum, / one after the other. // Sometimes the sounds are really loud and deep. // Other times / the sounds are softer or brighter in tone. //

Jayne is performing with a group playing *taiko*. // Taiko is the Japanese word for drum / and a type of music played on drums. // These drummers are part of a taiko group / in the United States. // As the group plays together, / their rhythm patterns make exciting drum “songs.” // The drums ring out, / and the audience cheers. //

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In 1968, / a man named Tanaka / started the first North American taiko group. // Taiko helped Japanese-Americans / reconnect with Japanese traditions. // And it introduced others / to a beautiful and unusual musical form. //

Today, / there are thousands of American taiko groups. // They have developed / a uniquely American type of taiko, / influenced by other cultures and / different styles of music. // People from many backgrounds play taiko in the U.S. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.