



## Study Guide

World Music in the Schools • Living Room Learning: World Music & Dance

### *Native American Drumming & Song*

Teaching Artist: Windwalker Dorn • [Windwalker's Artist Bio](#)

**Video link:** <https://youtu.be/mdMNDxplUSg>

Aho! Windwalker Dorn and her sister Karen “Loyal Bear” Story will take you on a journey of drumming, song, rhythm, and culture from some of the Eastern Woodland Tribes (Mi’Kmaq [pronounced micmac], Cherokee, and Lenape). In this hands-on assembly, students will sing and speak in Algonquin (Mi’Kmaq Tribe), Iroquois (Cherokee Tribe) and Lenape Tribe dialects as well as clap and tap feet along with a handmade cedar and elk hide drum.

**Learning Objectives:** Students will . . .

- Identify words of the Eastern Woodland tribes: Algonquin (Mi’Kmaq Tribe), Iroquois (Cherokee Tribe) and Lenape Tribe dialects
- Sing songs in Lenape and reflect on positive thinking with music from the Woodland Flute
- Create a steady drum beat
- Reflect on the significance of Native American music
- Understand the concept of a “call back” for teamwork and security

Alignment with **California Arts Standards for Public Schools:**

- **Music:** .MU:Cn11: Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding

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### Preliminary Activities

- Geography
  - Mi’kmaq are First Nations people of the northeastern woodlands of Canada and Maine.
  - Cherokee people are located in the southeastern woodlands of the United States (North Carolina, southeastern Tennessee, western South Carolina, northeastern Georgia and Alabama).
  - The Lenape lived along the Delaware River, inhabiting New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, and Delaware. They came to be called the Delaware Tribe, after the river they originally lived along.

- History
  - Mi'kmaq means "human being" or "the people," and this tribe numbered about 4,500 before Europeans arrived in the 1500s.
  - Cherokee means "Principal People."
  - Leni Lenape means "original people" or "Grandfathers," and this tribe has been in the area now known as New Jersey since about 8,000 BCE.
- Culture
  - The Mi'Kmaq originally consisted of small nomadic family groups; these clans subsisted on fishing, hunting animals, and gathering nuts and berries.
  - Cherokee people are known as farmers and hunters.
  - Lenape women planted and maintained crops, primarily corn, beans, and squash. The men were responsible for hunting and fishing.
- Language/vocabulary
  - The Mi'Kmaq language is an Eastern Algonquian language.
  - Cherokee is a Southern Iroquoian language, which is written in a system invented by Sequoyah in the 1810s.
  - Languages spoken by the Lenape include Unami (spoken in the south) and Munsee (spoken in the North).
- Tradition
  - Mi'Kmaq lived mostly in small family groups instead of villages. They lived in quickly-built wigwams for easy traveling, and in the summertime they lived in longhouses with other families.
  - Cherokee lived in villages with permanent buildings.
  - The Lenape tribe lived in large villages consisting of longhouses in the winter.

## Vocabulary

Awani	<i>Hello (Mi'Kmaq)</i>	Waolio	<i>Thank you (Mi'Kmaq)</i>
Osiyo	<i>Hello (Cherokee)</i>	Wado	<i>Thank you (Cherokee)</i>
Hè	<i>Hello (Lenape)</i>	Wanishi	<i>Thank you (Lenape)</i>
Akwani	<i>See you soon (Mi'Kmaq)</i>		

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## Follow-Up Activities

Ask your students to . . .

- Share with a family member or friend one thing you learned and one thing you liked.
- Look for items you can use around your own house to create your own rhythms.
- Practice your new vocabulary words with a family member or friend.
- Explain what mother we are referring to when we sing "Mother I feel you under my feet."
- Explain the importance of a "call back" when canoeing.
- Give examples of music in your life.
- Reflect on how music makes you feel. How did hearing the flute music make you feel?
- Discuss the role music has in expressing your identity (family, culture, gender, hobbies, etc).
- What more would you like to learn about Eastern Woodland Native American Tribes?