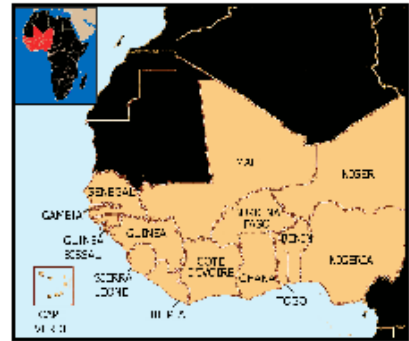


African Ceremonies

Background to West African music

- West Africa is made up of 16 countries. Chief amongst them are: Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast
- Music is rarely taught in school so traditional stories, dances and music are kept alive through tribal ceremonies
- Children as young as 4 are encouraged to develop rhythm skills and take part in the tribal ceremonies
- Music is taught and communicated by playing and watching, as opposed to written stave notation (as in the West). This alternative process is known as the *Oral Tradition*



Background to Djole

- Djole is a mask-dance from the Temine tribe in Sierra Leone. Although a mask depicts a female, it is carried by a male
- Djole is played usually during big feasts which involve many villages to celebrate a good harvest, the end of the Ramadan or a marriage

Instruments used in Djole

- The background rhythms to Djole are provided by the Doundoun drums: the Dundun (low), the Sangban (medium) and the Kenkeni (high)
- All three drums often have an Atoke (single bell) attached to the top so that two different rhythms and sounds can be played by one performer
- There are also normally two or more Djembes playing. Although they have a fixed rhythm like the Doundouns they often take turns improvising throughout the ceremony. Also, one of the Djembe players assumes the role of the *master drummer* (like a Western conductor) and gives rhythmic cues
- If you are not part of the drum group then you would be either dancing or singing
- If you are singing it is likely that you will be singing the *responses* to one lead singer



Dundun with an atoke bell attached

Words to the African Ceremony: "Djole"

Laila i ko korobe, korobe, korobe, mami watone

Aya

Sico leleleko

Aya

Sico la i ko, sico la i ko

Wa wango sico la i ko

Wa wango sico la i ko



The "Doundoun" Drum Family



Djembe Drum



Atoke Bell

Djembe played by a master drummer

