

## Big Rhythms, Big Drums

**TAIKO Project**

**Grades: K-12**

### ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

*This explosive drumming performance weaves modern and traditional Japanese taiko together to present a diverse repertoire of show-stopping songs. Utilizing authentic instruments hand-crafted in Japan, the performers share elements of their Japanese American culture. The show culminates with an unforgettable participatory session with students and teachers.*

**TEKS** (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):

	Music	Language Arts	Math	Science	Social Studies	The Student Will:
<b>K</b>	K.1, K.2, K.3, K.4	K.1, K.11	K.1	K.6	K.10, K.11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Demonstrate appropriate etiquette during live performances.</li> <li>* Investigate diverse cultures.</li> <li>* Practice listening and speaking.</li> <li>* Explore and define concepts across the curriculum.</li> <li>* Write original reports, stories, poems, and other forms.</li> </ul>
<b>1</b>	1.1, 1.1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5	1.1, 1.11	1.1	1.6	1.14	
<b>2</b>	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5	2.1, 2.11	2.1	2.6	2.12	
<b>3</b>	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5	3.1, 3.11	3.1	3.6	3.10, 3.11, 3.12	
<b>4</b>	4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5	4.1, 4.11	4.1	4.6	4.17	
<b>5</b>	5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5	5.1, 5.11	5.1	5.6	5.20, 5.21	
<b>6</b>	MS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	6.1, 6.10	6.2	6.8	6.13, 6.14, 6.15, 6.16, 6.17	
<b>7</b>		7.1, 7.10	7.2	7.7	7.18	
<b>8</b>		8.1, 8.10	8.2	8.6	8.23, 8.24, 8.25, 8.26	
<b>H.S.</b>	H.S.1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Eng I.1, 9	Alg/Geometry	Physics	World hist.	

**STAAR** (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness):

Writing

Grade 4, 7

Recording Category 1

(10) Composition: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--writing process. The student uses the writing process recursively to compose multiple texts that are legible and uses appropriate conventions.

Social Studies

Reporting Category 2

Grade 8

(26) Culture. The student understands the relationship between the arts and the times during which they were created.

Academic Vocabulary:

Taiko	* A broad range of Japanese percussion instruments. The process of constructing taiko varies between manufacturers, and the preparation of both the drum body and skin can take several years depending on the method.
Wadaiko	*A Japanese drum.
Kumi-daiko	*The art of Japanese drumming: movement infused, heart-pounding, dynamic group drumming; a high energy performance art that combines music, dance, martial arts, athletics, and culture.
Kata	*A Japanese word meaning "form". It refers to a detailed choreographed pattern of martial arts movements made to be practised alone or within groups and in unison.

**CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:**

***Before the performance***

- What do you know about drums?
- Can you or someone you know play the drums?
- What do you know about Japan? Japanese drumming?

***After the performance:***

- What did you learn from the presentation?
- Write, draw, tell, sing, dance, or act out your favorite part.

**Language Arts:**

- Write a story about a Taiko drummer.
- Create poetry, songs, raps, or chants with strong rhythms about sushi, origami, bowing, or other Japanese customs.
- Write in different rhyme schemes to produce different rhythms.
- (Older students) Read and write in iambic pentameter and other rhythms.

**Math:**

- Learn to count in Japanese: <https://www.dummies.com/languages/japanese/how-to-count-in-japanese/>
- Make up and solve math problems related to the presentation.

**Social Studies:**

- Learn more about Japanese culture.
- Investigate the history of drumming.
- (Older students) Find out about Japanese American internment during WWII.

**Science:**

- Learn how sound is produced on a drum.
- Create homemade drums and play them together. <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Drums-for-Kids#:~:text=How%20to%20Make%20Drums%20for%20Kids%201%20Method,cardboard%20carpet%20tube%20and%20plastic%20flower%20pot.%20>

**Resources:**

**More about Taiko:**

<https://web.stanford.edu/group/stanfordtaiko/cgi-bin/history.html#:~:text=1%20In%20Japan.%20In%20Japanese%2C%20taiko%20literally%20means,Kyodo%20Taiko%2C%20founded%20in%201990%20by%20Mark%20Honda.>

[https://www.softschools.com/facts/music\\_instruments/taiko\\_facts/3012/](https://www.softschools.com/facts/music_instruments/taiko_facts/3012/)

**About Japanese culture:**

<https://japanology.org/2019/04/20-facts-on-japanese-culture/>

**About rhythm in poetry:**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zmbj382/articles/zmpxbdm#:~:text=How%20to%20understand%20rhythm%20in%20poetry%201%20Introduction,Trochaic%20tetrameter.%20...%208%20Effect%20of%20rhythm.%20>

**About rhyme schemes:**

<https://literarydevices.net/rhyme-scheme/>

**ABOUT THE ARTIST:**

TAIKOPROJECT was founded in 2000 in Los Angeles, California by a group of young, emerging taiko drummers led by Bryan Yamami and Masato Baba. The group continues to define a modern American style of taiko, blending traditional forms with an innovative and fresh aesthetic. This award-winning group has been featured in a Mitsubishi commercial as well as at the Academy Awards, the Grammy Awards, NBC's "The Voice," "Syfy's Face/Off," The X-Factor, rock band 30 Seconds to Mars' "Up in the Air" music video, Conan, Jimmy Kimmel Live, Late Late Show with James Corden and the iHeartRadio Music Festival. TAIKOPROJECT has performed and recorded with Stevie Wonder, Usher, Alicia Keys, A.R. Rahman, John Legend, Kanye West, producer Squeak E. Clean, Sean Paul, Diplo, as well as international stars.

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