

## Traditional Music + Contemporary Music of MN American Indian Tribes and Communities

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I can describe traditional music of Minnesota American Indians.

### Part 1

Kevin Locke is Lakota and Anishinaabe. He is a famous player of the Native American flute, an instrument that was important many generations ago in the area now known as Minnesota.

Watch Kevin Locke play “Eagle Song” at least 3 times. This song represents the journey of an eagle over creation. With the dawn the eagle flies high and says, “I am the first one to fly with the new day.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1xaVn1SNOQ> (start at 2:35)

Write two words to describe these characteristics of the music:

1. The sound of the flute \_\_\_\_\_
2. The sound of the voice \_\_\_\_\_
3. Use of other instruments \_\_\_\_\_

### Part 2

Traditional music of Minnesota American Indian tribes and communities is music that has often been played or sung for many generations. Some characteristics of traditional music:

Songs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Songs are created for a specific purpose such as celebration, ceremony, birthdays, harvesting rice, or maple syrup making.</li><li>• The words of a song tell a story or use vocables (non-word syllables).</li></ul>
Melody	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Singing has a melody but no harmony. It is mostly sung in unison.</li><li>• Phrases of the melody often start on higher pitches and go lower. Repetition is common.</li></ul>
Instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wooden flutes are popular, and often used for courting. Flutes are traditionally played by boys and men. Each flute is made specifically for a boy based on the length of his arm and size of his hands.</li><li>• Drums and shakers are played with singing and dancing. Some drums and shakers are sacred and only used in ceremony.</li><li>• Big drums are used in powwow celebrations but only men are allowed to play them. (Powwows are open to the public.)</li></ul>
Notation	Traditional music is composed but not written down. People learn a song by listening to someone else sing it.

More recently, Native Americans have also composed music in contemporary styles—music that is often influenced by American popular music.

After you have read Part 2, look back to find the answer to each of these questions. Underline the answers.

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| 1. Why are traditional songs created?         | 4. When is a big drum played?  |
| 2. What is a vocable?                         | 5. Why does music composed more recently sound different than the traditional music? |
| 3. What instrument is popular for the melody? |  |

### Part 3

Now that you know a bit about traditional music of Minnesota American Indian tribes and communities, meet Paul LaRoche, founder of the band Brulé. Paul was adopted at birth and grew up in Worthington, Minnesota. He first learned to play the accordion, then switched to piano and organ. By high school, Paul played in a rock band that performed all around Minnesota and Iowa. He went on to perform in many more bands but dropped out in 1989 to work in engineering.

In 1993, after the death of both adoptive parents, Paul discovered his heritage as a member of the Lower Brulé Sioux Tribe of South Dakota. He, his wife and two children chose to move from Minneapolis to the Lower Brulé Sioux Indian Reservation in central South Dakota to be with his biological family. Paul started composing and performing again, but with new purpose.

“I am a product, I guess you would say, of two cultures, because of the way my life has gone. And rather than choose sides, I’ve tried to claim ownership of both. And really, it’s been my desire to want to bring those two worlds, or those two families, those two communities, a little closer together.”

Watch “Postcards: Brulé,” a 15-minute documentary about Paul LaRoche that aired before one of his concerts in Worthington. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V81C4quEmcY>

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**I can explain ways that music connects to cultural identity.**

Watch “Star People” performed by Brulé. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fn8EJMeiv1A>

Explain one way “Star People” connects to American popular music.

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Explain two ways “Star People” connects to Paul’s Native American heritage.

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<b>Parts 1/2</b> – Accurate or appropriate responses; <b>Part 3</b> – Accurate information with good details; Clear connection made between music and context	<b>Parts 1/2</b> – Mostly accurate or appropriate responses; <b>Part 3</b> – Mostly accurate information with some details or only minor misunderstandings; Some connection made between music and context	<b>Parts 1/2</b> – Major errors in responses; <b>Part 3</b> – Major errors in information; Minimal or no connection between music and context <i>Or</i> Assignment Incomplete