

**Traditional Music  
of MN American Indian Tribes and Communities**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

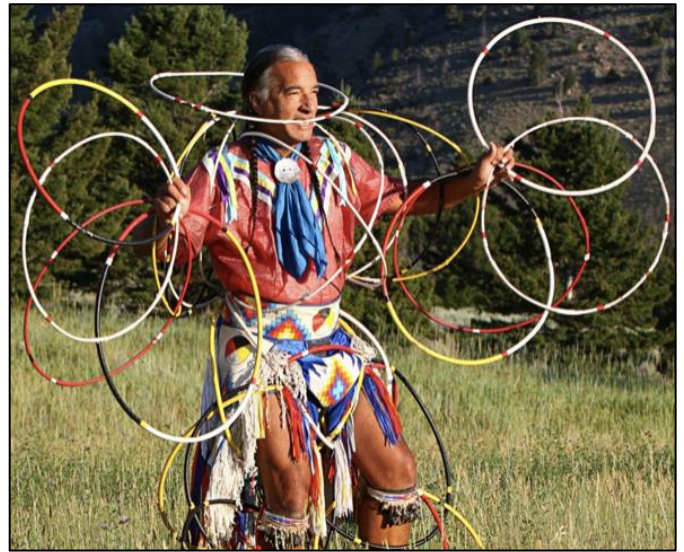
**I can describe traditional music of Minnesota American Indians**

**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. Flutes are popular for playing melodies.

Kevin is also a world-famous hoop dancer.



Watch Kevin Locke play this excerpt of “Eagle Song” at least 2 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://youtu.be/c1xaVn1SNOQ> (2:35-end)

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 has often been played or sung for many generations. Here are some characteristics of traditional music:

Songs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Songs were created for a specific purpose such as celebration, ceremony, birthdays, courting, harvesting rice, or maple syrup making.</li><li>• The words of a song told a story or used 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>• Flutes are popular for playing melodies; traditionally played by boys and men.</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>  <p>The image shows a group of men, likely participants in a powwow, gathered around several large drums. They are wearing casual clothing, including t-shirts and caps. One man in the foreground is wearing a red t-shirt with the text "Honor the Leadership Conference Tradition" visible. The men are focused on playing their instruments, which include large drums and shakers. The setting appears to be outdoors, possibly at a powwow event.</p>
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, such as rock or hip hop.

Use the information above to answer these questions.

1. What is a vocable? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Traditional melodies are sung in unison. What does that mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When is the big drum played and who is allowed to play it? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why does music composed more recently by Native American Indians sound different from the traditional music?  
\_\_\_\_\_