

Missionary Travels: Musical Instruments

An educational worksheet for children aged 9-13 published by
livingstoneonline.org

On Tuesday the 17th of January 1854 David Livingstone was invited to a celebration by a local leader called Shinte. Livingstone described the instruments played at the event in his book, *Missionary Travels...*

The piano, named "marimba", consists of two bars of wood placed side by side, here quite straight, but, farther north, bent round so as to resemble half the tire of a carriage-wheel; across these are placed about fifteen wooden keys, each of which is two or three inches broad, and fifteen or eighteen inches long; their thickness is regulated according to the deepness of the note required: each of the keys has a calabash beneath it; from the upper part of each a portion is cut off to enable them to embrace the bars, and form hollow sounding-boards to the keys, which also are of different sizes, according to the note required; and little drumsticks elicit the music.

David Livingstone

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Experiences and Outcomes:

Literacy and English

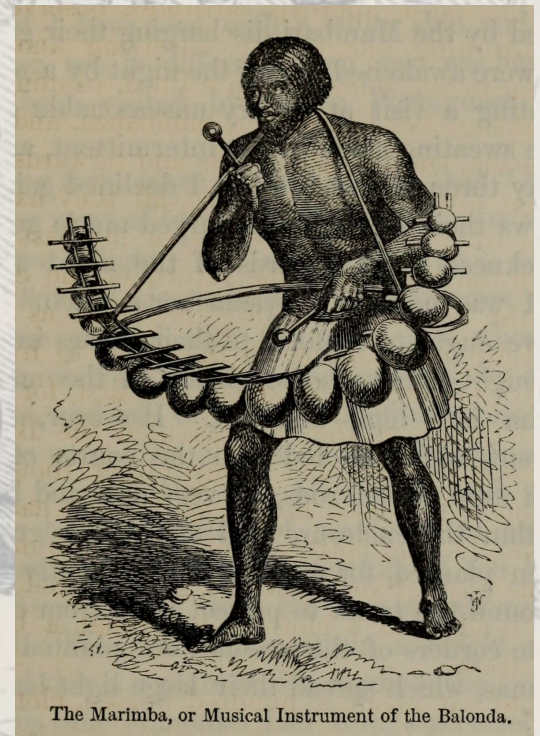
Students can practice deep reading and textual analysis to explore David Livingstone's writings.

Social Studies and Environments

Students can broaden their understanding of different cultures, peoples, and places.

Suggested Questions:

- 1) On the right is a drawing of the instrument David just described. Does it look like what you imagined?
- 2) Do you know what sound a marimba makes? Can you find out?
- 3) Can you describe a musical instrument you have seen or heard?



The Marimba, or Musical Instrument of the Balonda.

Further Reading:

Find out more about the famous nineteenth-century explorer David Livingstone's *Missionary Travels* at livingstoneonline.org

This educational resource was developed by Kate Simpson and Justin Livingstone, who are staff of *Livingstone Online* (livingstoneonline.org). *Livingstone Online* is the leading site for learning more about the life and writings of David Livingstone. Visit our site to discover an array of images and texts that supplement the educational material found in this worksheet.