



Why Music Matters in Cultures Around the World

KS3 MUSIC

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Music is Everywhere

From **Japan** to **Brazil**, from **Nigeria** to **Iceland**, every culture and society uses music. It's not just background noise — music is woven into the heart of how people live, celebrate, and remember their history. Whether it's a wedding, a funeral, a festival, or a quiet moment at home, music is there.

Music Brings People Together

One of the most important reasons music matters is that it **unites communities**. When people sing or dance together, they feel connected to each other. Think about how a group of friends singing the same song feels different from each person listening alone — the shared experience creates a special bond.

Think of it like a group hug for your whole town. When everyone sings the national anthem at a sports match, or dances at a festival, it's like a giant invisible thread connecting everyone.

Music Tells Stories and Keeps History Alive

Before writing was common, cultures passed down their history through **music and songs**. A grandmother might sing an ancient lullaby to her grandchild that her great-grandmother sang to her. **African griots** (West African storytellers) used music to remember important events and family histories. **Indigenous Australian** people used song-lines to navigate their land and remember ancestral stories.

Music is like a living library that never gets forgotten.

Think of it like a video recording, but instead of your phone, it's your grandmother's voice and a guitar keeping the story safe for the next generation.

Music Expresses Feelings We Can't Always Say

Sometimes words aren't enough. When you're sad, angry, happy, or excited, music can say what your mouth cannot. A sad song makes you feel understood when you're grieving. A party song makes you jump and dance when you're celebrating. Different cultures use different instruments and styles, but they all use music to **express emotion**.

Music is Part of Our Identity

The music a culture loves tells you who they are. **Irish folk music**, **Indian classical music**, **Cuban salsa**, and **Scandinavian metal** are all different because they come from different places with different histories and values. Learning about a culture's music is like learning the deepest secrets about what matters to them.

Music isn't just entertainment — it's how humans have stayed connected for thousands of years.