Traditional Irish Music

Can you name the following Irish instruments?
Did you know?

Read one of the cards. Explain in your own words to your group.

**A**

**Traditional Irish music** began as an oral tradition over 2,000 years ago with the arrival of the Celts and was **passed from** generation to generation as musicians **picked up** the tunes by ‘ear’. It was only in the 1700s, that the lyrics and notes were recorded. Like Irish storytelling, songs were to be experienced and not just learned and played.

**B**

**The Harp** is the national emblem of Ireland and appears on our Euro coins. It was the most popular instrument in ancient Ireland with harpists being **employed to** play music for chieftains and nobles. Harpists are still **sought after** today, hired to perform at weddings and other special events.

**C**

**A session** is an informal and often impromptu gathering of Irish musicians who bring an instrument and join in if they know they are **familiar with** the tune. They are most commonly found in traditional pubs or houses but you might also **come across** them on street corners. The Irish refer to this musical gathering as a **'seisiún'**.

**D**

**Ireland’s long history of Emigration** means that Irish music has **spread to** all corners of the globe. During the famine, many Irish people **emigrated to** the U.S, bringing their music with them. You can still hear the Irish **influence in** American folk and country music today. Today, a traditional and contemporary fusion has become very popular around the world.
Focus on Prepositions:

Use the following prepositions to complete the gaps in the questions.

In  at  for  of  on

1) What type of music are you keen __?
2) What kind of music is your country famous __?
3) Are you interested __ learning to play a musical instrument?
4) Are you good __ playing the guitar?
5) Are you aware __ any famous musicians from your country?

Let’s Talk:

With your partner, take turns to answer the five questions above. Can you create three more questions using the adjectives and prepositions below?

fond of  bored with  excited about
Teachers Notes:

Irish Instruments:

A = Tin whistle  
B = Accordion  
C = Banjo  
D = Uillean Pipes  
E= Bodhran  
F = Fiddle  
G = Flute  
H = Harp  

Did you Know?

Assign students into groups of 4. Give each student in the group one of the A-D cards. Each student reads their own card and in their own words, summarizes for the other students what they have read. Encourage students to give a reflection on what they have read also.

Vocabulary:

Now, students can focus on the underlined/Bold vocabulary items in the texts. Each student reads aloud their words and together they deduce the meaning. Encourage students to use the context of the piece in order to work out the meaning if they are unsure.

Focus on Prepositions:

1. Keen on, 2. Famous for, 3. Interested in, 4. Good at, 5. Aware of