Complete Grade 6 Creative Arts Rationalized Notes

Strand 1.0 Creating and Executing

Sub-Strand 1.1: String Musical Instruments and Drawing

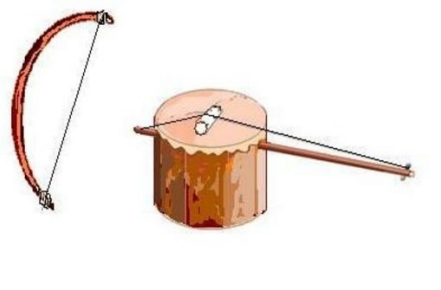
Introduction to String Musical Instruments

- **What are string instruments?**
  - String instruments are musical instruments that produce sound when their strings are vibrated.
  - Examples of modern string instruments:
    - **Guitar**: Played by strumming or plucking strings with fingers or a pick.
    - **Violin**: Played using a bow to glide across the strings.
    - **Harp**: Played by plucking its many strings with both hands.
- **Indigenous Kenyan String Instruments**
  - *Nyatiti* (Luo community) – An eight-stringed instrument played by plucking. It is often used in cultural celebrations and storytelling.

  - *Obokano* (Gusii community) – A large bowl-shaped lyre with thick strings that produce a deep, resonant sound.

- *Litungu* (Luhya community) – A multi-stringed instrument like a harp, traditionally used for storytelling and entertainment.

- *Kibugandet* (Kipsigis community) – A traditional string instrument resembling a lyre, played by plucking the strings. It is used during social gatherings, celebrations, and storytelling.
- *Wandindi* (Kikuyu community) – A one-stringed fiddle, played with a bow. The *wandindi* is traditionally used in Kikuyu music during ceremonies and cultural events. It has a resonant, droning sound and is often used to accompany songs or chants during storytelling or rituals.



- **Other African String Instruments**
  - *Kora* (West Africa) – A harp-like instrument with 21 strings, often used in traditional West African music.

How String Instruments Work

- **Parts of a String Instrument**
  - **Body**: The hollow part of the instrument that helps amplify the sound (e.g., the round body of the Nyatiti).