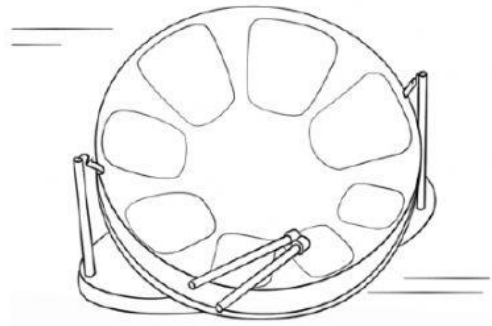


SOCIAL STUDIES

National Emblems

Our National Instrument



The National Instrument of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is the steel drum or the Steelpan. The Steelpan is a musical instrument that was developed in the late 1930's. The steelpan is the only original non-electronic musical instrument invented in the last 100 years.

Old biscuit tins and caustic soda pans were first used to make steel drums then they were made from a steel drum or container.

The process for creating a pan begins with the beating of the tip of the drum into a sinking shape, marking the pan into sections and hammering each one to make a certain sound (grooving).

The pan is then cut from the top of the drum at different depths.

Finally, the pan is heated for tone, and fine-tuning is done with a small hammer to complete the process. Pans are played with pairs of rubber-tipped sticks.

