World Percussion Vocabulary List – Word of the Day

**Drum Circle** -any group of people playing percussion in a circle. Drum circles are used for team building, fun music making, education, and celebrations.

**Conga Drum** – a tall, narrow, single-headed African drum. They are used in Afro-Caribbean music, Latin, Salsa, Reggae, and other forms of popular music.

**Shekere** – instrument from West Africa; a dried gourd with beads woven into a new covering the gourd

**Gankogui** - a low-pitched bell, or gong instrument made out of iron that is played with a wooden stick. The bell symbolizes a parent and a child.

**Membranophones** – An instrument, which produces sound by way of a vibrating, stretched membrane. Ex: drums

**Idiophones** – An instrument which produces sound by way of the instrument vibrating without the use of strings or membranes. Ex: bell, maraca

**Improvisation** – making up music as you go along

**Syncopation** – music occurring on the offbeat

**Call and Response** – two musical phrases played (or sung) right after each other in a similar way.

**Master Drummer** – a leader of drumming, singing, and dancing who is held in high respect in African culture.

**High Life Music** – contemporary African musical style which mixes traditional African instruments with contemporary instruments