

LEARN

The Sami people are an indigenous population inhabiting northern Scandinavia who are known for reindeer herding. Traditionally, Sami frame drums are made from wood and reindeer hide. They are used in a variety of ceremonies and rituals, including shamanism (led by a spiritual leader called a shaman). These drums are played to accompany *yoiking*, a traditional Sami singing style that uses “vocables” (sounds but no words) similar to the singing we hear at powwows. The drawings on the drums depict various aspects of Sami life, such as fishing and reindeer herding, or religious symbols. Sami symbols and songs were used in Disney’s *Frozen* (2013).

MAKE**Materials****Drum**

- A strip of heavy poster board (color), approximately 2 in. wide by 22 in. long
- Metal pie tin
- Tape
- Packing tape
- Scissors
- Markers/crayons
- Beige, brown, or mottled paper, cut into a 9½ in. circle (for drumhead)

Beater

- 2 halved paint stirrers
- Tape

Instructions

1. Decorate the beige circle with Sami symbols (see examples in the Learn More section below).
2. Circle the strip of poster board around the metal pie tin.
3. Tape the circle.
4. Leave the pie tin in place.
5. Use the packing tape to create the “skin” of the drumhead. With another person’s help, tape across the top of the circle, starting from the top to the bottom and from side to side. Keep the tape as taut as possible, without crushing the poster board. Continue taping until all the open spaces are filled.
6. Remove the pie tin.
7. Add a circle of beige paper to the inside of the drum, against the tape.
8. Tape the two paint stirrers together to form an “L” shape.
9. Play your drum!

**SEE**

Visit MIM’s Europe Gallery and see Sami frame drums in the Iceland exhibit.

LISTEN



Listen to Jan Ole Hermansen perform his winning yoik during the Sami Grand Prix 2011 [here](#).



Watch a short video with images of Sami life [here](#).

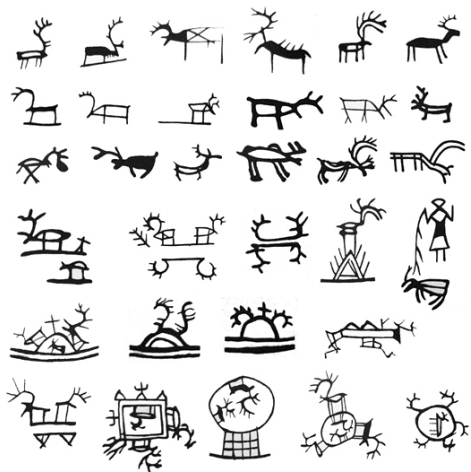
PLAY ALONG

Try playing along with the [opening song from Frozen](#). It's a South Sami yoik (song) titled "Eatnemen Vuelie" by Frode Fjellheim. Listen carefully for when the drum enters and copy the pattern.

1	2	3	4
x	xx	x	(rest)



Improvise (make up) your own yoik using vocables and then add drum accompaniment with your frame drum.



LEARN MORE

Learn about the symbols found on Sami drums [here](#).