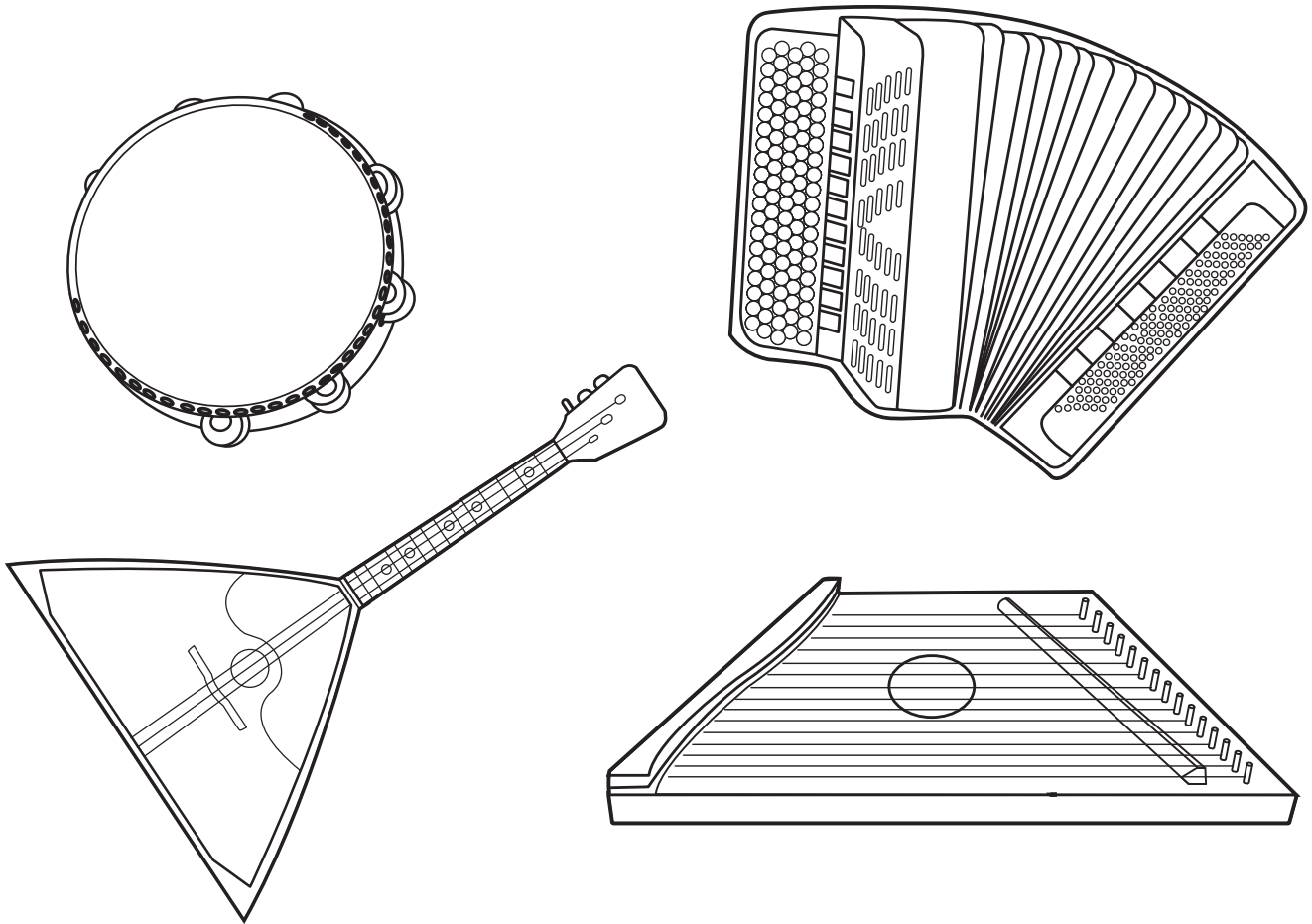


Russian Instruments

Russia is a large country with many different cultural traditions which can be heard in the folk music. The instruments played in Russian folk music are important symbols of a long and rich past. Celebrate Russia's history and folk traditions by reading about the instruments below. Draw a line to match each instrument description to its illustration, and then color the instrument.



Buben

This round handheld percussion instrument, which is similar to a tambourine, has been around for a long time. There are records of the buben being used for military music in the 10th century.

Gusli

The gusli is a hollow box with 15 steel strings. It's a type of instrument, called a psaltery, which is usually played with a bow; the gusli, however, is plucked, making it more like a harp.

Bayan

The bayan looks much like an accordion, which is popular in other parts of Europe, but the sound and construction of the bayan are different enough to make it unique. It is named after a mythical Russian musician-storyteller named "Boyan."

Balalaika

The balalaika is well known because of its unique triangle shape. It usually has three strings, which are plucked. *Balalaika*, in Russian, means "to chat." Many people describe the sounds from this instrument as "talking."