



Reading

Tan Dun's music



Sandy is reading a magazine article about the famous composer Tan Dun. Here is the article. Before reading, think about the questions below.

- 1 Who is your favourite Chinese composer or musician? What do you know about him or her?
- 2 Have you heard of Tan Dun? What do you know about him?

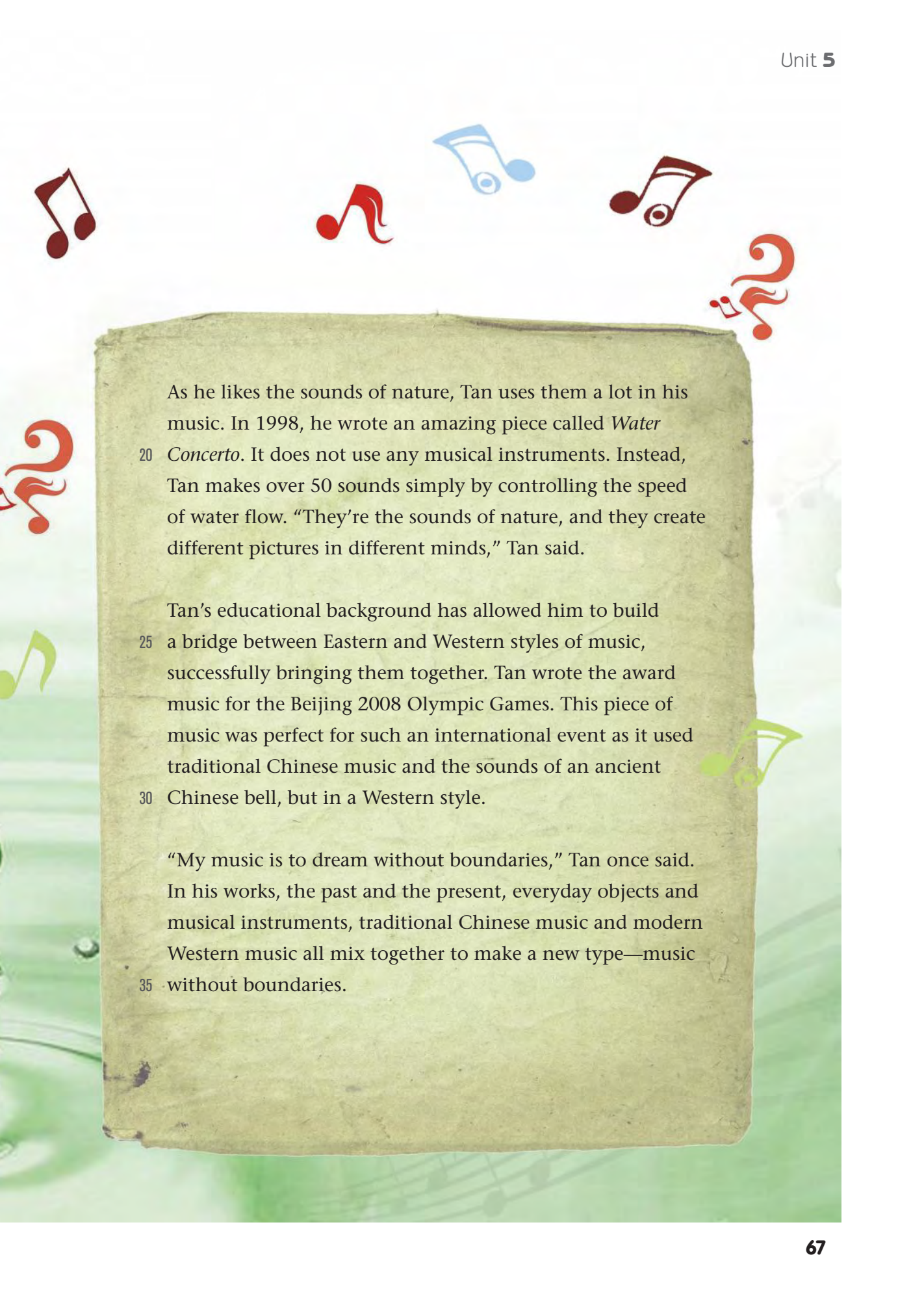
Music without boundaries

The 15th UN Convention of Biological Diversity opened to the beautiful music of "One Earth One Spring". Tan Dun, a world-
 5 famous composer, wrote the music. His unique style has earned him great respect and success in the world of music.

Born in central Hunan, China, Tan Dun grew up near the Liuyang River. Tan showed an interest in music when he
 10 was very young. He loved the sounds of the rushing water and the blowing wind because, to him, the best music came from nature. Since he had no musical instruments then, he made music with common objects like stones and paper.

In 1978, Tan entered the Central Conservatory of Music in
 15 Beijing. Eight years later, Tan went on to study music in the USA. There he became familiar with Western music and got to know great musicians worldwide.





As he likes the sounds of nature, Tan uses them a lot in his music. In 1998, he wrote an amazing piece called *Water*
20 *Concerto*. It does not use any musical instruments. Instead, Tan makes over 50 sounds simply by controlling the speed of water flow. “They’re the sounds of nature, and they create different pictures in different minds,” Tan said.

Tan’s educational background has allowed him to build
25 a bridge between Eastern and Western styles of music, successfully bringing them together. Tan wrote the award music for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games. This piece of music was perfect for such an international event as it used traditional Chinese music and the sounds of an ancient
30 Chinese bell, but in a Western style.

“My music is to dream without boundaries,” Tan once said. In his works, the past and the present, everyday objects and musical instruments, traditional Chinese music and modern Western music all mix together to make a new type—music
35 without boundaries.