

Making Musical Instruments

This project gives students the opportunity to manipulate and create sound. It enhances the study of instrument families and provides hands on experience for learning. Activities like this provide an avenue for all learning styles, thus meeting the individual needs of my students. It also makes a curriculum connection with measurement skills. Most of all, the kids love it and take ownership for their instruments and their learning!

Curriculum/State Standard

Create, Present & Perform:
The students use items and ideas to create an instrument and perform. (four - 45 minute sessions)

Overview

The students have the opportunity to make an instrument and play it. We then analyzed the different sounds. This was followed by a discussion including the variables involved in making different pitches, how the woodwind family and brass family start their sounds, and the relationships to other instruments we here in our local band and orchestra.

Objectives

- The 4th grade students will create a wind instrument.
- The 3rd grade students will create a hose horn.

The students will play different sounds on the instruments by varying the length of tubing and/or changing their embouchure. The students will gain knowledge about using products from their environment to construct an instrument. The students will integrate measurement skills into the music classroom when they measure the tubing.

Continued on the back...

3-4

GRADE LEVEL



ARTS



LANGUAGE



MATH

Misc

MISCELLANEOUS



SCIENCE



HISTORY



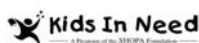
SOCIAL STUDIES

4

DAYS

\$270

TOTAL BUDGET



THIS WINNING LESSON PLAN WAS SUBMITTED BY:

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“Making Musical Instruments” project continued...

Materials

50' hoses, Plastic craft tubing and/or PVC tubing, Measuring Tape, Pencils, Funnels, Electrical tape, Twine or Colored Rope, Clay for stoppers, Scissors, Colored Electrical Tape, Stickers for decorating, Cutting Tools

Readiness Activity

- Students should be familiar with the instrument families.
- Students should have an overview of the procedure used in making their instrument.
- Students need to have measurement skills and know how to safely handle materials.

The instructor should identify the number of students involved and calculate the amount of materials, whether hose, PVC, plastic craft tubing, or funnels that they will need.

Strategies/Activities

The students are given a brief background of the instrument families.

Together we measure the various tubing. (hoses: 36 in., 42 in., 48 in. and tubing: 4 in., 5 in., 6 in., 7 in.) The tubing is then cut in graduating lengths.

Hose Horn students tape the funnel into one end of their hose and tape the other end, making a mouthpiece. Loop the hose once around and secure by taping at the top. Add a colored cord for a shoulder strap. It will resemble a French horn with a twine shoulder strap attached.

Pan Pipes tape their various lengths of tubing together from longest to shortest, keeping the top of the instrument straight. They may add decorative stickers to the tubing if they wish. Complete the panpipes by closing the end of each tube with a small piece of clay.

Students can then practice buzzing into the hose horns and blowing into the panpipes to produce various sounds.

Students compare and discuss the different pitches and sounds.

Culminating Activity

The students put on a mini concert. They played simple melodies like “Hot Cross Buns,” both in groups and as solos. The hose horns played with a piano accompaniment to a foxhunt story. Students were then allowed to take the instruments home and share them with their families.

Evaluation

Each student was evaluated on the completion of the instrument.

Each student was asked to play his or her instrument.

Each student was asked to identify higher and lower pitches and explain why the pitches were different.

Students were asked to compare the highness or lowness of pitches to other instruments.