

Wanafunzi (Students) Making the Sounds of Music

The "Wanafunzi" Project provided an avenue for students to apply abstract classroom subject matter learning to practical use, reinforcing their skills and making the knowledge meaningful.

Curriculum/State Standard

African-Centered Interdisciplinary
Multilevel Hands-On Science
Curriculum

Overview

The project provided students with information about past African American scientific contributions to our society, a look at the application of the role of government in supporting individual endeavors, and an understanding of the connection of learning and development of skills that bring about significant contributions to society.

Objectives

- The students will gain knowledge of the U.S. patent process and develop an appreciation for the genius of African American inventor R.F. Fleming, Jr., (patent No. 338,727) by researching, drawing, and recreating his guitar, patented on March 30, 1888.
- The students will gain knowledge and understanding of instrument design and sound, as well as enhance their vocational, visual/spatial, gross/fine motor skills through building the guitar.

Materials

Stew-Mac Epoxy-Fast Setting,
banjo/dulcimer fretwire-2 foot,
Micarta Saddle-1/8" width, Master
Gel Finish - 12 oz., Economy
Covered Gear Tuners - Chrome 6-in-
line oval knobs, fingerboard blank -
rosewood, peg head overlay veneer -
rosewood 3-1/2"x7"x3/32", fret saw-
adjustable model, tape recorder,
blank tapes, tapes of nature sounds,
drafting paper, pencils, drafting
instruments, Irving Sloane's
"Classical Guitar Construction,"
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office,
Microsoft Encarta CD - Encyclopedia
Africanus, African American Musical
Timeline, and Internet.

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5-6

GRADE LEVEL



ARTS



LANGUAGE



MATH

Misc

MISCELLANEOUS



SCIENCE



HISTORY



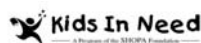
SOCIAL STUDIES

16

WEEKS

\$2000

TOTAL BUDGET



THIS WINNING LESSON PLAN WAS SUBMITTED BY:

Bernida Thompson, Ed.D.
Roots Public Charter School
15 Kennedy Street, NW, Washington, DC 20011

“Wanafunzi” project continued...

Readiness Activity

Discuss the particulars of the project with students and provide rules and requirements students must meet. Distribute informational letter to students and parents detailing project and student requirements.

Brainstorm and discuss with students their perceptions of the origins of music and construction of instruments. Ask what memories they have of their first experience hearing musical sounds and instruments. What do the students feel were the events and thoughts that occurred with Ancient Africans at the beginning of their recognition of sound, music, and construction of instruments? Compose, perform, and record a tune using African nature sounds.

Strategies/Activities

Constructing environment instruments. Student collect materials from their immediate environment to create “Urban Environmental Instruments.” Develop concept and drafting plans. Identify their instrument and classify it according to established instrument categories.

Comparison of standard instruments to students constructed instruments.

Performing with the Urban Environmental Instruments.

Reading Sloane's book on classic guitar construction.

Visit the on-line U.S. Patent & Trademark Office Web site.

Read a book on basic drafting.

Invite volunteer professional to demonstrate application of theory to practice in each skill area.

Research R.F. Fleming, Jr. and his patent.

Duplicate a life-size drawing of Fleming's guitar from patent.

Construct the guitar.

Learn the basics of how to play the guitar.

Culminating Activity

Students give a report to the student body on the knowledge gained regarding R.F. Fleming, write a technical manual on guitar construction and the patenting process, and present a musical concert with the constructed guitars.

Evaluation

Given guitar patent plans, students identified each part, and wrote the general steps required to produce a finished guitar. Further, students were required to write a report of the “Wanafunzi Project” Finally, students completed a functional guitar and were able to play a tune.