Visual and Performing Arts: "Sounds from a Musical World"

A multi-cultural lesson plan created by Denise Retter, student teacher, Roseville Unified School District, Roseville, CA

Topic: Musical instruments used in rituals and ceremonies from various countries.

Objectives: Students will become familiar with the core instruments of various countries through research on the Internet and through the school library in order to:

1. Understand that there are basic musical instruments that are essential part of bands, or musical groups in most nations.

2. Compare the names and characteristics of instruments from different countries.

3. Experience interactive use of the computer in order to listen to, and analyze, music of various cultures while developing the ability to recognizes and understand the elements of music.

4. Appreciate the diversity and commonalities of musical instruments from various world cultures.

5. Appreciate the role of music in diverse ceremonial and ritual contexts.

6. Students will be making musical instruments from recycled materials as a final project.

Purpose: To help students understand and appreciate the historical, ceremonial and ritual use of musical instruments as an integral part of various cultures.

Overview: Teacher will assign students to groups, and each group will research a country. Students will complete research and report to class, the names of commonly used instruments in their assigned country; a description and correct spelling of each instrument; and describe the sound as it might relate to a commonly used instrument in their school band. Teacher will list the countries on the overhead or board, and have categories for instruments as the group's report. Students will note differences and similarities in the lists.

Resources: Interactive musical resources on the Internet as outlined in resource list at this site.

Directions: for making a drum set from recycled materials.

Materials needed: Recycled objects such as:

- Small cardboard shoe boxes
- Oatmeal containers
- "Pringles" containers w/plastic lid [makes great finger drum instrument]
- Empty plastic water/soda bottles [filled with pebbles make great sounds]
- Empty paper milk cartons [glue shut, hold with clothes pins until dry]
- Empty plastic milk containers {fill with a little colored water and glue lid shut, makes a musical noise when shaken to a rhythmic beat!}
- Paints, crayons, or oil pastels
● Recycled paper (butcher or construction)
● Yarn
● Wooden spoons
● Old pots or pans
● Old spoons or metal utensils [to bang on pans]
● Recycled wind chimes
● Purchased plastic flutes from craft or hobby shop

**Activity # 1:** Students will work (in groups of 4 or 5) online to develop knowledge of their assigned country. Students can look through the readings in the Learning section of this unit for research ideas about diverse cultures.

**Activity # 2:** Students will be able to list the names of the traditional instruments described and explain whether they are woodwind, percussion, string, etc. Students will describe similar instrumental sounds heard previously. Teacher will record research findings by category. Students will be expected to take notes of their groups findings.

**Activity # 3:** Student group materials coordinator will gather materials from teacher for their group in order to make a drum, or a "gong", or any "creative" instrument they may imagine. Student will cut, paste and decorate their instrument to reflect the symbolic cultural image of their research country. This may be accomplished by use of color and pattern, symbols, etc. Yarn can be used to hold the instrument around their necks, so hands are free to beat the drum.

**Activity # 4:** Students will individually demonstrate their artistically created instruments, as each group is called upon to represent their country.

**Review and Closure:**

Students will be expected to summarize either in writing, or verbally, their experience in learning about Western and non-Western instruments and music.