

Musical Instruments Around the World



Book Builder

ART & MUSIC

Overview

Students build an illustrated guide to instruments from several traditions, connecting how each one is built to the sound it makes.

Steps for Teachers

1. Review the families of instruments and how each family makes sound
2. Assign or let students choose four instruments from at least three different regions
3. Students research how each is built, what it is made of and how it is played
4. Students listen to a recording of each one being played well
5. Students plan one page per instrument: what it looks like, how it is made to sound, where it comes from, what it is played for
6. Students write each page connecting the physical build to the sound produced
7. Students illustrate with drawings or photographs, labelling the part that vibrates
8. Play the recordings while the class reads the matching page

Example

A student's guide covers the kora, the steelpan, the shakuhachi and the cello. The steelpan page explains that each hammered dent on the oil-drum face is tuned to its own note, and labels three of them, so a reader can see why one drum plays a melody.

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Acoustic Reasoning	Each page correctly connects how the instrument is built to how it sounds	Build and sound are both described but not connected	The explanation of sound production is wrong
Cultural Context	Each instrument is placed in its tradition accurately and respectfully	Context is present but thin	Context is missing or stereotyped
Range of Traditions	Instruments genuinely span different regions and families	Some variety, but two choices overlap heavily	All choices come from one tradition or family
Book Craft	Text is easy to read, art supports every page, and the layout is consistent throughout	Pages are readable with some crowding or uneven placement	Text overlaps art or is hard to read; layout is inconsistent