

Musical Instruments Around the World

ART & MUSIC



Overview

Students research and present musical instruments from different cultures, learning about music's role in societies around the world.

Steps for Teachers

1. Explore the diversity of musical instruments globally
2. Students select an instrument from a culture they want to learn about
3. Students research the instrument's history, how it's made, and how it's played
4. Students learn about the cultural significance of the instrument
5. Students find or create visuals and audio examples
6. Students record their instrument presentation
7. Create a 'World Music Museum' with all instruments

Example

A student presents the djembe drum from West Africa. Character holds drum: 'This is a djembe, a drum from West Africa! It's shaped like a goblet and covered with goat skin. The djembe has been played for over 400 years in countries like Mali and Guinea. In villages, djembe music brings people together for celebrations, ceremonies, and storytelling. Different rhythms send different messages—some call people to gather, others celebrate harvests. The saying goes: "The djembe can make you dance, cry, or feel brave!"'

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Developing
Instrument Knowledge	Accurate details about the instrument and how it's played	Shows good understanding of the instrument	Information is inaccurate or superficial
Cultural Context	Explains the instrument's role in its culture	Mentions cultural significance	Ignores cultural context
Cultural Respect	Presents the culture respectfully and authentically	Generally respectful presentation	Contains stereotypes or disrespect
Engaging Presentation	Makes viewers excited to learn about world music	Reasonably engaging	Fails to generate interest