

Drums and Sound

by Gay Luke

Grade level K - 1

Time required

2 –3 hours (Can be done over a span of three days)

Materials/Technology

1 or 2 hand drums
5 Tuning Forks
Rubber bands
2 chairs
Drawing paper
Crayons or markers
Pictures of several types of drums

Summary

Through discussion, demonstration, and observation of performances by drum groups, students learn how vibrations create sounds.

Objectives

The student will:

- 1) observe and explore that vibrations make noise.
- 2) infer that when drums are struck they will make noise due to vibrations.

Materials included in curriculum tub

One hand drum, 12 tuning forks, rubber bands, 5 packages of markers

Montana Science standards addressed

- 1) Students demonstrate knowledge of properties, forms, changes, and interactions of physical and chemical systems.
- 2) Students understand historical developments in science and technology.

Assessment

Observe students as they participate in the activities, and evaluate them verbally. Students should be able to tell you what vibrations are and that vibrations produce sound.

Procedure

Day 1

Explain to students that sound is produced by vibration. Pass rubber bands out to students and let them experiment making sounds with them. Now group the students so that each group has a tuning fork. Let each group member practice making sounds with the tuning fork. When each member has had a chance to use the tuning fork, have each one write why/how they think the tuning fork and the rubber bands can make sound. Ask students to remain in their groups and take turns talking or humming while they hold their hand on their throat. Have students discuss in their group what they felt and how they think their sounds were made. Show the children the pictures of the different drums, and ask them how they think drums make sound. Hold a hand drum and walk up and down the rows, allowing each student to feel the drumhead as you hit it. Discuss as a class how drums make sound.

Day 2

Invite a drum group to class. (It is appropriate to “gift” guests when they come and share with students. An appropriate gift would be, lunch certificates, an inexpensive blanket for the drum, a certificate for gas, etc.) Have the group share how the drum was made, along with any additional information about the culture and history of the drum. Have the drummers perform a song or two for the class. Ask the drum group to explain the use of each song that they perform. Have a student present the gift to the drum group.

Drum group to contact

Contact person: Mike Kenmille in Elmo, or the Kootenai Culture Committee in Elmo.
849-5581

Further information

For further information about these lessons contact Gay Luke via electronic mail at pesgluke@ronan.net.