

WS1 COLLEGE Lesson Plan



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Title: From Australia to Kenya: The Similarities and Differences in music around the world

Subject: Art, Music, Drama/Theatre, History

Length of Lesson: a week of classes (and extension to the performance event)

Grade Level: College

Objective: The overall goal of this lesson is for students to be able to realize and appreciate the differences in music around the world. There are so many forms of beautiful music around the world. Students will be able to listen to music critically and identify similarities and differences in music. This lesson is designed to both introduce new music to young listeners and teach them to listen to music they are already familiar with more critically. Students are encouraged to listen to the music and reflect upon how it connects people. This episode of WoodSongs Old Time Radio Hour features legendary guitarist Tommy Emmanuel. The activity within this lesson will have students listen to music by Tommy Emmanuel from the episode and then music from Jean Bosco Mwenda. Students will then compare and contrast the styles and feelings they experience from both styles of music. This will allow students to reflect upon the creative and technical similarities and differences of music, while also exploring the ways that music evokes similar emotions even though the sound and style differ. It is our hope that students will be inspired and also appreciate the amazing talent of Tommy Emmanuel by listening attentively to his performance. Parker Hastings is featured within this episode as well and is a very talented young musician. Teachers are encouraged to focus on the energy and excitement Parker demonstrates while playing with Tommy Emmanuel. This will hopefully inspire the students as well!

Goals & Objectives:

- Students will develop an understanding and appreciation of the various types of music around the world
- Students will develop an understanding of various styles of guitar
- Students will develop communication skills while planning presentation and event
- Students will build communication skills while working collaboratively on presentation project
- Students will build creative thinking skills as they design their presentation
- Students will learn about different cultures around the world while exploring various musical genres
- Students will be able to make connections to how music unites people throughout various genres
- Students will build networking skills as they plan and design performance event

- Students will build critical thinking skills while learning about various musical genres and design of their presentation

Vocabulary within Lesson:

Instrumental Music: music intended to be performed by a musical instrument or group of instruments

Genre: a category of artistic composition, as in music or literature, characterized by similarities in form, style, or subject matter

Students will understand Rhythm Guitar, lead guitar & bass guitar: (answers will vary)

Rhythm guitar could be explained as more of the glue of the song and the constant pulse of the song. Whereas lead guitar is more of a melodic expression. Bass makes the song complete. These are examples and thoughts of ways in which students may describe what they hear and learn about each.

Description of Activity/Procedure:

For the first class, students will watch episode 731 of Woodsongs Old-Time Radio Hour. The teacher is encouraged to have a brief discussion beforehand to access prior knowledge and encourage the students to begin thinking about music around the world. The teacher is encouraged to gather reactions after the show as well. This will be helpful for the next class period when the class will be asked to discuss the show with regards to a different artist. Encourage students to write down five thoughts and main points that they have after watching the episode. Students will bring their thoughts and/or questions to the next class period to begin the warm-up discussion. This will also serve as an exit slip.

At the beginning of the second class, ask students to recall the show and what they thought of the artist, in particular Mr. Tommy Emmanuel. Ask them what thoughts they had about the music, the style and what sort of thoughts and emotions it brought forth in them. Have students share their thoughts and/ or questions from the exit slip activity on day one. Ask them to think about the structure of the music as well, the way that Mr. Emmanuel plays percussively. It might be good to take a bit of a survey on the board of some of the adjectives that the students give you. It will help to have later for comparative purposes.

Next, tell the students that you are going to listen to a different artist. Have the students listen to the video before telling them about him. His name is Jean Bosco Mwenda. He is Congolese and had a major effect on guitar players from Kenya. After the video plays, ask the students to do the same thing they did for Tommy Emmanuel. Write what they said on the board and then after all the comments are gathered, have students compare and contrast the two artists. How were they the same? How were they different? How did they make you feel? Discuss with the students that artists often may have a similar feeling to them, but they are all unique. Tell them now that they are going to compare and contrast two artists of their own choice. Use your own judgment here, but mostly let the students choose the artists for themselves. Have them choose one song from two different artists and then compare and

contrast those artists. Have them compare style, structure (rhythm, pace), and just the way that each makes them feel. You may either have students work alone or in groups, but have them report what they find.

Link to Video for Jean Bosco Mwenda: <http://youtu.be/XkJFfn6avSo>

The next class period, students will brainstorm and begin to organize a performance piece. Students will demonstrate the two different genres of music (the ones they've chosen in activity 2) from around the world by either creating a presentation in which they dress and explain the styles, or they may actually perform the styles of music if they choose to do so. Students are encouraged to research the history of their chosen music genre, discuss the geographical location and culture, and discuss the similarities and differences of the two. Students are encouraged to think creatively as they organize and eventually present their information. Students will work in a group to complete this project and then present to their class and possibly even other classes if the teacher and student wish to do so. Presenting to others will allow the students to work on their communication and presentation skills, while also allowing them to really creatively plan as they present to their peers and teachers. This presentation may also include a reception in which traditional foods may be served and as a way to bring the community together in celebration of music from around the world. This project will be a presentation to the class and also, ideally, to other organizations on campus. This presentation is encouraged to build a sense of appreciation of all musical genres and also for students to learn and explore other cultures. It is our hope that this will inspire students to create their own music and also appreciate the differences in music, while realizing that it may often evoke similar emotions.

Media/Materials Needed:

Computers or iPads. Some sort of way for students to consume media.

Materials will vary depending on projects