

# WoodSongs WS7 COLLEGE Lesson Plan



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**Title:** Hammered Dulcimer

**Subject:** Music, English, Arts & Humanities, Drama, History

**Length of Lesson:** Three-five classes (may vary)

**Grade Level:** College

This episode of WoodSongs features the hammered dulcimer. There are three very talented musicians (Joshua Messick, Ted Yoder, and Andy Young) playing the hammered dulcimer, each of which demonstrate their own unique style to playing the instrument. To begin this lesson, students will first watch the episode of WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Hour. After watching the show, ask students to list similarities and differences among the sounds. Ask students questions such as: How would you describe the styles of each musician? Which style do you most connect with and which style would you like to learn more about and play? For instance, Ted Yoder plays the Beatles song, "Eleanor Rigby", while Joshua demonstrates a very classical style. Andy Young offers a folk style and also has a guitar player accompanies him. Encourage students, as each musician references in the show, to explore the instrument. What does this mean to you? Encourage students by asking, "How might you bring your own style to a musical instrument?"

The activities within this lesson will have students write an informative text about the history of the hammered dulcimer, and also a creative piece in which they discuss their own style and creativity and how they may relay this in their music. Students will then work collaboratively with another student to merge their projects. This will encourage students to learn collaborative skills, merge various styles of musical performance, and also to learn from one another about their personal styles and unique design.

*Description of Activities & Procedures:*

Activity 1: Activity 1 is the informative text in which students will write a three page paper about the history of the hammered dulcimer. Students will include information from reliable sources. This instrument is so rich in history. For example, as Michael Johnathon says during the show, the dulcimer originally came to us from Egypt, and traveled across America because it was easier to carry than the piano. Students are encouraged to cite at least three to four reliable sources within their informational text, one will be WoodSongs, and they will research other sources. One suggestion for a possible source on the hammered dulcimer is the following excerpt from the Encyclopedia of Appalachia:

<http://encyclopediaofappalachia.com/entry.php?rec=73>

**Activity 2:** Activity 2 in this lesson is the creative piece in which students will design their own musical performance. The musical performance will be a musical in which they depict something important in their lives. For instance, students may choose to design their musical based on an issue they feel passionate about. For instance, students may choose to design their musical about environmental issues. Once students brainstorm their musical, they will then pair with another student once they have designed their own project, to form a collaborative project. Students will work collaboratively with another student to merge their projects. This will encourage students to learn collaborative skills, merge various styles of musical performance, and also to learn from one another about their chosen topic. Students will also complete the following activity beforehand to begin brainstorming their personal mission statement, which will help with the design of their musical, and as they begin to think upon their topic.

### ***Personal Mission Statement***

**Do you have a personal mission statement? What makes you, YOU? What are your goals and what do you stand for each and every day? How do you feel that music and art play a role in who YOU are and what makes you, YOU?**

**The Mission Statement should be:**

- **Short**
- **Understandable**
- **Memorable**
- **Distinctive**

**Goals & Objectives:**

- **Students will understand the hammered dulcimer and its history**
- **Students will be familiar with the sound of the dulcimer and various styles as demonstrated in the show**
- **Creativity encouraged through design of their own musical**
- **Knowledge of music as applied to creating their own musical**
- **Knowledge of musical instruments introduced and played in WoodSongs episode**
- **Builds communication and presentation skills**
- **Encourages descriptive writing**
- **Encourages students to make connections of how music tells a story and delivers a message**