

HOMEMADE MUSIC

with The Music Box!

This episode addresses the following music standards:

[Cr1.1 | Cr2.1 | Cr3.1 | Cr3.2 | Re7.1 | 8.1]

Step 1: What is a musical instrument?

Sort objects into categories of those that are musical instruments and those that are not. How did you decide whether an object was an instrument or not?

Step 2: Think outside the box

Watch these videos of unique homemade instruments for inspiration!

- [Domingos Fernandes plays a leaf](#)
- [The Vienna Vegetable Orchestra](#)
- [An Aeolian Bucket](#)

Step 3: Chart your thoughts

Were the objects in the videos musical instruments? Respond on post-it notes and stick them on a chart under “yes” or “no,” then discuss.

Step 4: Listen to The Music Box - Homemade Instruments episode

[Listen](#)

Step 5: Imagine

What are some different sounds you could try to make with an instrument and how could you try to make each one?

Step 6: Learn about instruments of the orchestra

Explore the San Fransisco Symphony’s kid [webpage](#) below to explore the instruments in a traditional classical orchestra to inspire your homemade instrument. What are the parts of this instrument? How does this instrument make sound? How do you create sound on this instrument?

Step 7: Select

Musicians call an instrument's voice its timbre (pronounced: **tam**-ber). What timbre do you want your instrument to make?

Step 8: Gather your materials

What materials will you need to create your instrument's timbre?

Think of ways to re-create traditional instruments with other materials like...

Boxes

Rubber bands

Strings

Coffee Cans

Scrap Wood

Plastic Bottles

Beans

Rice

Straws

Plastic Pipes

Bowls

Yarn

Chopsticks

Leaf

...You Name It You Can Play It!!

Step 9: BUILD!

Fill in the blanks- you're the inventor!

Step 10: Compose, Refine, and Share

Choose to work solo or in a group. Create a musical composition using these simple forms to structure the ideas.

A-A-B-B

A-B-A

A-B-C

Share about why you chose to create your instrument. Why might a musician choose your instrument's timbre to express themselves?

As always send pictures and recordings to education@wuol.org - We'd love to share your work!

