Music — Ancient

Course Description: Students will listen to music from ancient times up through the renaissance. They will read about the development of instruments and how music was used in different cultures. They will learn about wind, string and percussion instruments and the basics of note reading and rhythm.

Levels:

Level 1-4 — 1st through 4th

Level 5-8 — 5th through 8th

Ancient Music

Week 1
1. If you didn’t get here through My EP Assignments, I suggest you go there and create an account.
2. I figure that the first music was the music God made in nature.
3. Here are a lot more different kinds of nature sounds if you want more.
4. Mix together some different sounds.

Week 2
1. One of the earliest man-made instruments must have been some sort of drum.
2. Play the drums. Click on play and use your keyboard.

Week 3
1. Learn about communicating with drums and then play the online drums.
2. First play the virtual log drum.
3. Explain to a parent how it can make two different sounds.
4. Then click on the links at the bottom. Play the Unifix Cube Drum Machine.

Week 4
1. While some of those drums were modern, I figured a drum was probably the earliest instrument. But I thought of another. The whistle. Can you whistle? Try to learn if you can’t.
2. Listen to a whistling song. Click on the play triangle (and nothing else). This song is from the old Disney movie, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. It’s actually a humming song too. Even if you can’t whistle, you can hum. The voice is another instrument the Lord made along with all the songs of nature.

Week 5
Level 1-4
1. Read about how to make a whistle. (I’m wondering if you could use a pencil eraser instead of wood.)
2. Whistles are one of the oldest types of instruments. Here is an ancient one made from bird bone. You can see a colonial times version of it on this game. Try and play the notes on this penny whistle.

**Level 5-8**
1. Learn how a whistle works.
2. Whistles are an old type of instrument. Here is an ancient one made from bird bone. You can see a colonial times version of it on this game. Try and play the notes on this penny whistle.

**Week 6**
**Level 1-4**
We’ve looked at early percussion instruments (drums) and early wind instruments (whistle). Now let’s look at early string instruments. I’ve read that the ancient Egyptians used an early version of a harp. At the bottom of this page is an image of what a harp-like instrument might have looked like at King David’s time.

1. Listen to Flower Duet by Delibes. Listen for the harp.

**Level 5-8**
1. We’ve looked at early percussion instruments (drums) and early wind instruments (whistle). Now let’s look at early string instruments. I’ve read that the ancient Egyptians used an early version of a harp. At the bottom of this page is an image of what a harp-like instrument might have looked like at King David’s time.
2. Listen to Autumn Leaves by Kosma. Listen for the harp.

**Chinese**
**Week 7**
**Level 1-4**
1. Listen to this traditional Chinese song.
2. This second song is played on a pipa. Here’s another image.

**Level 5-8**
1. Listen to traditional Chinese music.
2. What type of instrument is being played? (answer: string instrument/harp)

**Mayan**
**Week 8**
1. Listen to ancient Mayan music.
2. What types of instruments do you think you hear? strings, flutes, drums?

**Indian**
**Week 9**
1. Listen to ancient Indian music. What types of instruments do you hear?

**Week 10**
**Level 1-4**
1. Make a splat symphony.

**Level 5-8**
1. Click on blocks to build blocks and sounds. There are different colors on the left which are different sounds.

**Ancient Stringed Instruments**
**Week 11**
**Level 1-4/5-8**
1. Listen to ancient lyre music. (Press play on the music player in the left side menu) While it is playing, you can scroll down and look at the images. What type of instrument is the lyre? (answer: string)
Week 12
Level 1-4
1. Listen to cithara music. (Under instruments, click on Cithara. Then click on the music notes.)
2. While you listen, draw a picture of a cithara and place it in your binder.
3. What type of instrument is this? (answer: string)
Level 5-8
1. Listen to aulos music. (Under instruments, click on Aulos. Then click on the music notes.)
2. While you listen, draw a picture of the aulos and place it in your binder.
3. What type of instrument is this? (answer: wind)

Wind Instruments
Week 13
Level 1-4
1. Learn about different types of wind instruments. Click on woodwinds and then each type of instrument.
2. Make sure you click on “Hear it play” and the arrow to learn about more instruments.
Level 5-8
1. Read about the different types of wind instruments. Scroll down to woodwinds.
2. Click on each one and listen to each one play.

Strings
Week 14
Level 1-4
1. Learn about different types of string instruments. Click on strings and then each type of instrument.
2. Make sure you click on “Hear it play” and the arrow to learn about more instruments.
Level 5-8
1. Read about the different types of string instruments.
2. Click on each one and listen to each one play.

Roman
Week 15
Level 1-4
1. Look at and read about instruments of ancient Rome.
Level 5-8
1. Read about instruments of ancient Rome.

Week 16
Level 1-4*
1. Listen to this music.
2. Which instruments do you hear?
3. *Print out this page and mark which instruments you think you hear. You can give this to a parent to put in your portfolio. Your parent can label it as instruments used in Synaulia II, ancient Roman music.
Level 5-8
1. Look at this page while you listen to the music.
2. Which instruments do you hear?
3. Label a notebooking page: Instruments Used in *Synaulia II*, Ancient Roman Music. On the page list the instruments you think you hear. Give it to a parent to add to your portfolio.

**Week 17**
1. Listen to a couple of the samples of *ancient Roman music*. What types of instruments do you hear?

**Percussion**

**Week 18**
Level 1-4

1. Learn about different types of percussion. Click on percussion and then each type of instrument.
2. Make sure you click on “Hear it play” and the arrow to learn about more instruments.

Level 5-8
1. Read about the different types of percussion.
2. Click on each one and listen to each one play.

**Rhythm**

**Week 19**
Level 1-4/5-8

1. Copy the rhythms. Notice how RHYTHM is spelled!
2. You will listen to a rhythm of four beats. A single line is one note. A double line is two notes in one beat. Those are the faster ones.

**Vikings**

**Week 20**
Level 1-4/5-8

1. Read about Viking music.

**Week 21**
Level 1-4/5-8

1. Read about why we know little about Viking music.
2. Look at their instruments. Do you see why they call them woodwinds?
3. Listen to the first song. What types of instruments do you hear? percussion? strings? woodwinds?

**Medieval**

**Week 22**
Level 1-4

1. Listen to this music of the Middle Ages.
2. You'll hear strings, percussion, winds, voices... What can you recognize?

Level 5-8
1. Listen to this [music of the Middle Ages](#).
2. You’ll hear strings, percussion, winds, voices...
3. Several different songs play. What different moods do the different songs express? Which types instruments are used to express which mood?

**Week 23**
Level 1-4/5-8*

1. Read about [Medieval music](#).
2. Choose an [instrument](#) to learn about.
3. *Draw a picture of it. Write it’s name at the top of the page. Write about the instrument on the page. Here is a page you can use to do this assignment ([Medieval Instruments](#)).
4. Do it neatly and give the paper to a parent to place in your portfolio.

**Understanding Music Notes**

**Week 24**
Level 1-4/5-8

1. Do the “Basics” in the Music Lab. If it doesn’t come up, click on “Music Lab” on the left and then on “Basics.” (You can take a screen shot for your portfolio.)

**Week 25**
Level 1-4/5-8

1. Do the tempo and rhythm sections of [the music lab](#). Choose them from the menu. If it doesn’t load, you’ll have to click on “The Music Lab” off to the left.

**Week 26**
Level 1-4/5-8

1. Listen to [traditional Japanese music](#) while you look at these different types of traditional [Japanese instruments](#). (Click on their names.)

**Week 27**
Level 1-4/5-8

1. [Compose a song](#) with what you learned about notes and rhythm. The play button is in the top left corner. You can make a note longer by clicking and dragging a note to make the box bigger.

**Week 28**
Level 1-4

1. View these [renaissance instruments](#). You will see wind, string and percussion instruments. Here’s one more [image](#).
2. What’s the percussion instrument? (answer: the piano, you strike the keys — It is never classified as a string instrument, but it is really a mixture of percussion and string.)

Level 5-8
1. Read about renaissance music.

Week 29
Level 1-4
1. Listen to the renaissance music. What types of instruments do you think you hear?
Level 5-8
1. Listen to the renaissance music. What types of instruments do you hear?

Week 30
Level 1-4/5-8

1. Listen to this short piece of music by DaVinci.
2. Read about his musical inventions.

Week 31
Level 1-4/5-8

1. Invent a musical instrument or design improvements to an existing instrument.
2. You can look at this page on DaVinci’s musical inventions again if you need inspiration.

Week 32
Level 1-4/5-8

1. Make music in the beat lab. You can change the sounds and the genre of the music. This requires flash. If it’s not loading for you, check the browser for a puzzle symbol or something to click on to enable flash to play. If you can’t play this because you are on a phone or something, look for a free music-making app.

Week 33
Level 1-4/5-8

1. Play beat lab. You can change the sounds and the genre of the music. This requires flash. If it's not loading for you, check the browser for a puzzle symbol or something to click on to enable flash to play. If you can't play this because you are on a phone or something, look for a free music-making app.

Week 34
Level 1-4/5-8

1. Play Musical Mingles or beat lab.
   • Beat Lab – You can change the sounds and the genre of the music. This requires flash. If it’s not loading for you, check the browser for a puzzle symbol or something to click on to enable flash to play. If you can’t play this because you are on a phone or something, look for a free music-making app.

Week 35
Level 1-4/5-8

1. Play Orchestration Station or beat lab.
   • Beat Lab – You can change the sounds and the genre of the music. This requires flash. If it’s not loading for you, check the browser for a puzzle symbol or something
to click on to enable flash to play. If you can’t play this because you are on a phone or something, look for a free music-making app.

**Week 36**
Level 1-4/5-8

1. Learn about [Young Composers](#) or make music in the [beat lab](#).
   - Beat Lab – You can change the sounds and the genre of the music. This requires flash. If it’s not loading for you, check the browser for a puzzle symbol or something to click on to enable flash to play. If you can’t play this because you are on a phone or something, look for a free music-making app.