Mini-Lesson #2  MEET THE CHARACTERS OF THE ORCHESTRA

GRADES K-2

STANDARDS

Music
K-2.GM.R2.A With guidance, demonstrate awareness of music concepts (such as same/different sections of music, musical sounds, or simple musical characteristics in a listening selection).

Language
K-2.FL.VA.7b With guidance and support from adults, explore word relationships and nuances in word meanings.

K-2.SL.CC.1 Participate with varied peers and adults in collaborative conversations in small or large groups about appropriate grade level topics.

K.SL.CC.2 Confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood.

OBJECTIVES

• Students will be able to identify the four instrument families, as well as the characteristics of each family.
• Students will be able to recognize instruments from each family by sight and sound.

MATERIALS

• Computers/devices with internet access (enough for students to work individually or in small groups).
• DSO Kids instrument sound files: https://www.mydso.com/dso-kids/learn-and-listen/instruments
• Instrument Flash Cards
• Instrument Matching Worksheet
PROCEDURE

1. Ask students what they know about symphony orchestras. Have they ever heard a symphony? How many people play in a symphony? What kind of music do they perform? Can you name any instruments that play in a symphony orchestra? If so, what do they sound like?

2. Pass out one instrument flashcard to each student for a class instrument sorting activity. Designate four areas around the room and ask students to group themselves with instruments that they think are like the instrument (instrument families) they have in their hands.

3. Once students have completed their instrument sort, ask them if all the instruments in the arranged groups are from the same instrument family? If not, what family does the instrument belong to and why? Have students rearrange to the correct instrument family.

4. Discuss the similarities and differences of each instrument family and how the instruments make sound (What materials are the instruments made out of? Do you use a bow, mallet, or air to play the instrument? Etc.)

5. Split students into groups to explore the DSO Kids website. Have students access the instrument descriptions and sound files to explore the different sounds each instrument makes.

6. After exploring the DSO Kids website, have students match the instrument name with the picture of the instrument on the "Instrument Matching Worksheet."

MODIFICATION

If you are leading the instrument sorting activity with younger students, ask them to stand in a circle and lead an open sort, comparing each instrument one at a time. Instruct students to consider the appearance of the instrument as well as what they observed about how the instrument was played in the 360 video.
Below are pictures of some of the instruments in a symphony orchestra. Draw a line from the instrument name to the correct photo of that instrument.

- VIOLIN
- FLUTE
- TIMPANI
- TROMBONE
- CLARINET
- XYLOPHONE
- FRENCH HORN
INSTRUMENT FLASHCARDS

TRUMPET

FRENCH HORN

TROMBONE

TUBA
INSTRUMENT FLASHCARDS

FLUTE

CLARINET

BASSOON

OBOE
INSTRUMENT FLASHCARDS

TAMBOURINE

XYLOPHONE