

“WHAT IS A DIDJERIDOO?” ACTIVITIES

THEME: *Recognizing that music is a universal language enables every one to enjoy it as an important part of life.*

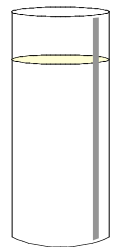


LANGUAGE ARTS / MUSIC: Ask students how many instruments they can think of and include the instruments mentioned in Tom Chapin's song, “What Is A Didjeridoo?” Sort the instruments into categories (string, percussion, wind). Alphabetize each list of instruments on chart paper.

GEOGRAPHY: In his song, Tom Chapin says the didjeridoo “comes from the land of the kangaroo.” What place is he describing? Find it on a globe. What country does each instrument listed above come from? What words could you use to describe the country?

LISTENING: Plan to play excerpts from several culturally distinctive renditions of music. Have students identify the culture/country this music is from. Have students identify the instrument heard most distinctly in the music.

SCIENCE / MUSIC: Fill glasses with different amounts of water and use a spoon to make music. Color code each glass then record your music on a piece of paper. Have students play their musical masterpieces for the class.



ART / MUSIC: Make your own Didjeridoo (see instructions on the following page).

RELATED LITERATURE:

Ty's One Man Band / Mildred Walter

Making Musical Things / Ann Wiseman

The Banza / Diane Wolkstein

The Science Book of Sound / Neil Ardley

Introduction to Musical Instruments Series:

Brass/Percussion/Strings/Woodwinds / Dee Lillegard

Tom Chapin's HOMEMADE DIDJERIDOO RECIPE



Take a 3 to 4 foot piece of pipe:

Tom uses plastic PVC plumbing pipe, approximately 1-1/2 inch internal diameter, available from any hardware/plumbing supply store.

Carefully buff the ends so no sharp edges remain.

Select one end as the mouthpiece and, using duct tape or gaffers tape (the Australian Aborigines used beeswax), build up a rounded ridge so as to protect your lips when you blow into it.

Presto - a homemade Didgeridoo!

Then, have a lot of fun decorating it with stickers or permanent markers or auto paint that might adhere to plastic.

Good luck, and have a happy time making rude noises.