

Title of Lesson/Unit: Musical Trees



Primary to Intermediate

(Updated from Kids for Trees, developed by FORED BC for intermediate grades 4-7)

Big Ideas:

- Dance, drama, music, & visual arts are each unique languages for creating and communicating (K-7)
- Plants and animals have observable features

Curricular Competencies:

 Students are expected to be able to do the following:

- Explore [elements](#), processes, materials, movements, technologies, tools, and techniques of the arts
- Explore personal experience, community, and culture through arts activities
- Ask questions about familiar objects and events

Concepts & Content:

 Students are expected to know the following:

- [local First Peoples uses](#) of plants and animals
- Characteristics of local plants, animals and fungi
- Processes, materials, technologies, tools and techniques to support arts activities
- Traditional and contemporary Aboriginal Arts and arts-making processes

Objectives for This Activity:

- Students will be able to identify local tree species that are used in musical instruments
- Students will be able to share and record their observations
- Students will be able to appreciate the contribution of trees to music



Pre-Class Preparation: The teacher will need to make the following preparations prior to class: make copies of the below worksheet for each group of students. Have copies of [tree identification books](#) handy to identify [local tree species](#) that could be used to make the items on the worksheet.

Lesson Plan Instruction (adapt for younger grades):

- You will be working in small groups to complete this task.
 - Choose one person to present your ideas to the rest of the class. - Presenter
 - Choose someone else to record the group's ideas. - Recorder
 - Other group members will encourage ideas and help with the group's work.
1. With your group, discuss each item listed under Trees in Our Lives Worksheet (below). Have the Recorder place a checkmark beside each thing that someone in your group has tried or used.
 2. Now look at each item your group checked off on the included worksheet. Think of places in your community where you can go to find this activity or get this product. Have the Recorder write your ideas beside each item on the lines under 'Trees In Our Community'. (Feel free to explore online with supervision).
 3. When your group is finished, help your Presenter get ready to explain your ideas to the whole class. Trees contribute to many aspects of our lives that involve music, art, literature and theatre. The following worksheet includes activities and materials that are made possible through the use of trees or tree products.

Extensions:

- Make your own musical instrument from recycled materials - [CBC News](#).
- Making [music from trees](#). Or Growing an [Ethical, Sustainable](#) Guitar Forest.
- Invite local First Peoples into your class to share their knowledge of how trees are used in their culture and demonstrate (eg. cedar for basket weaving, drumming)
- Make a display showing others how trees are used.



WORKSHEET

Trees in our Lives



Trees in Our Community

piano		
guitar		
violin		
drums		
piano keys		
Paper/pencils		
brushes		
paint		
engraving		
basket weaving		
easels /carvings		
ballet shoes (paper/cardboard ends)		
rayon costumes		
topics for stories, poems and subjects for artwork		
furniture		
props		
sets and scenery		
theatre buildings		
theatre stage		
Other Ideas?		