



CAMELLIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S

Education and Outreach Series

Symphony Orchestra Lesson Plan

Lesson Purpose

To help students have a clearer understanding of what an orchestra is and what instruments are usually found in one.

Materials Needed

Student booklet for each child. A copy of the book “Meet the Orchestra” by Ann Hayes (or any other similar children’s book about instruments).

First 30 Minute Lesson

- Have the children talk a short while about what they already know about symphony orchestras. Explain that each player plays a certain part and all the parts fit together to make the music sound beautiful.
- Do a short exercise with the nursery rhyme “Hickory Dickory Dock”. Have the class repeat it through once... “Hickory dickory dock, the mouse ran up the clock. The clock struck one, the mouse ran down. Hickory dickory dock.” Have one small group of five or six children chant over and over “tick, tock” through out the rhyme while the rest of the class repeats the rhyme. Say the rhyme twice or more to keep the rhythm going. Add sound effects if the class can handle it. (Pencils tapping on desk to a steady beat as an example.) Explain that this is an analogy to how an orchestra works. Different parts are playing at the same time, but playing different music.
- Read the sections of the book that go with the first three pages of the student book. Have the children work on those pages after the story.

Second 30 Minute Lesson

Finish reading the book about the instruments and have the children finish the student book. Leave extra time for the coloring contest on the back page. If there is time, have the children repeat the “Hickory Dickory Dock” exercise and let one child act as conductor, using a pencil as a baton and telling the group whether to say the rhyme loud or soft or fast or slow.

Optional Musician Visit

To finish the lesson, you may like to request that a Camellia Symphony Orchestra member visit the class to speak more on the instrument they play, and what it is like to play in an orchestra.

If you are interested in having an orchestra member visit your classroom, please contact the Camellia Symphony Orchestra at (916) 929-6655, or email us at camelliaorch@aol.com.

Resources from the Internet for Children

The following web sites have excellent games and information about orchestral instruments for children to use as well as teachers.

www.sfskids.org (San Francisco Symphony)

www.nyphilkids.org (New York Philharmonic Orchestra)

www.funbrain.com (click on music)

www.dataadragon.com (information on orchestra instruments)