

Elementary 11

Changemakers and Creativity

Dr. Sarah Gulish

Grade Level/Class

Upper Elementary Grades

30 Minute Music Class

Cross-Curricular: Social Studies

Overall Theme

Music and musical instruments are filled with and extended by layers upon layers of rich meaning that are built up by everyone who participates in the music-making process – performers, listeners, producers, engineers, makers, retailers, and countless more. This lesson explores how instruments can be reinterpreted beyond their original intentions to inspire creativity.

Essential Questions

1. Why do people make changes to musical instruments?
2. How does society influence the innovation of music?
3. Why is innovation important in the field of music?

National Standards

Respond

Re.7.1.4. Demonstrate and explain how selected music connects to and is influenced by specific interests, experiences, purposes, or contexts.

Connect

MU.Cn.11.1.4. Demonstrate understanding of relationships between music and the other arts, other disciplines, varied contexts, and daily life.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Define what “innovation” means.
2. Identify a problem they would like to fix.
3. Collaborate with peers to select a project and create a project plan.
4. Articulate the history of LEO and how Don Lewis was an innovative visionary.

Materials Needed.

1. E11 Presentation
2. E11 Worksheet
3. Writing Utensil

Procedures

Lesson Introduction (5 Min):

- Teacher (T) invites students (S) to raise their hands and answer the question: *“If you could change one thing about the world what would it be?”*
 - S responds and the T engages in conversation based on their answers.
- T invites students to answer another question: *“What is one invention that you wish existed today that would make your life easier?”* [T can provide examples such as a coffee robot that brought you coffee when you were tired so you could keep teaching].
 - S responds and the teacher engages in conversation based on answers.
- T tells students that today they will be thinking like innovators and inventors to solve problems. To do this, they will learn from one of the innovators in music, Don Lewis.

Lesson Activity (20 Min):

- T invites students to answer the first two questions on their worksheet:
 - “What is one problem you’d like to solve in the world?”
 - “What is one solution that you have for solving this problem?”
- After a few minutes, T invites students to get in small groups to share their problems with their groupmates. Each group member should ask at least one question and provide one idea for their partner.
- T shares the definition of “innovation” on the board and asks S to think of someone in their life who is truly innovative.
- T shares the slideshow covering Don Lewis’ history as a musician and how he invented LEO, highlighting photos from the MoMM.
- T shares a clip of Don Lewis’ performance and asks students to answer the following questions:
 - *Did Mr. Lewis solve his problem? Why/why not?*
 - *What else could he have done to solve his problem?*
 - *How do you think his instrument might have influenced musicians after him? Explain .*
- S share out their answers as a class.

Assessment Strategies

Wrap-up and Assessment (10 Min.):

After S have completed the class work, T invites S to turn in their worksheets and read some of their problems/ideas with the class. If time allows, T could continue this project into the next class and have students develop a project plan for a solution to their problem. They could also research other visionaries in history who innovated in their field.

Extensions/Adaptations

This Lesson Plan has possibilities for cross-curricular instruction:

- Social Studies: Work with a social studies teacher to create a project where students research musical innovators in history and develop their own musical innovations!

Adaptations:

- Group students together for the initial brainstorming session if additional support is needed.
- Consider providing simplified questionnaires with visual aids for ELL students.
- Provide an image description with the photo of LEO, and closed captioning on the video of Don Lewis Performing on LEO.
- Provide a T chart to help students come up with problems and solutions, and list 1-2 examples for each category.
- Share synonyms for the word “innovation” written around the definition to help students grasp an understanding.
- When asking students to answer questions about Don Lewis, preview questions with students you may call on to help them think about their answers ahead of time.

Spotlight on Careers in Music

This lesson plan can be tied to specific careers in music:

- Instrumentalist
- Performer/Entertainer
- Engineer
- Product Design and Development

For comprehensive information on careers in the music industry, please visit [Consider a Career in Music](#)