

Secondary 8

The Sonic Palette: Drums and the Drum Set

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Grade Level/Class

Upper Secondary Grades

Overall Theme

Understand how innovations in manufacturing led to the modern drum set.

Essential Questions

1. How were percussion instruments used in marching bands and popular music before the development of the modern drum set?
2. What led to the development of the modern drum set?
3. How do manufacturers respond to performers' needs when developing advancements for instruments?
4. What are some key innovations in manufacturing that have led to advancements in the drum set?

National Standards

Create

MU: Cr1.1.T: Anchor Standard: 1. Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.

MU: Cr2.1.T: Anchor Standard: 2. Organize and develop artistic ideas and work.

Connect

MU: Cn11.0.C: Anchor Standard: 11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.

Respond

MU: Re7.2.T: Anchor Standard: 7. Perceive and analyze artistic work.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Describe the history of the modern drum set.
2. Discuss innovations in manufacturing that led to advancements in the modern drum set.
3. Describe the relationship between manufacturers and endorsers and discuss how this relationship is used to create technological advancements in drum set manufacturing.
4. Create a drumbeat using an online drum machine.

Materials Needed

1. S8 Presentation

2. S8 Worksheet
3. Student computer with internet access
4. [Stories - The Sonic Palette](#) PDF
5. Writing Utensil

Procedures

Lesson Introduction:

- Teacher (T) and Students (S)-Watch the video clip, "Wynton at Harvard, Chapter 9: The Evolution of the Trap Drum Set".
- T- Lead discussion reflecting on video. Sample questions:
 - What were some ways enslaved Africans communicated with percussive sound when drums were outlawed?
 - How do traditional marching bands perform percussion instruments? (One person on each instrument or one person playing multiple parts?)
 - What innovations in New Orleans led to the development of one seated percussionist playing multiple parts at the same time? (cymbal attached to bass drum and high society dance hall bands wanting the percussion instruments and also body and punch from bass drum)
 - What were the typical percussion instruments used in the early trap drum sets?
 - How were drums being used in popular music before the development of the modern drum set?
 - Discuss the evolution of the sock or hi-hat cymbal and stand. Who was the drummer instrumental in developing this new idea?
- S read through the document "Stories: The Sonic Palette" and complete the attached worksheet.
- T shows Andy Zildjian's oral history video.
- S turn and Talk to a neighbor- Describe the relationship between manufacturers and endorsers and discuss how this relationship is used to create technological advancements in manufacturing.
- S visit Virtualdrumming.com and navigate to the [drum machine tab](#).
- Select "Clear" to remove the pre-arranged beat.
 - Create a beat by clicking on different parts of the drum set (each square represents one 16th note. A good place to start is Hi-Hat: All 8th notes, Snare: Beats 2 and 4, and Kick/Bass Drum: Beats 1 and 3).
 - Once you have created a beat, begin navigating to the different drum set sounds to see how they affect the overall sound and feel of your groove.

Assessment Strategies

Wrap-up and Assessment:

During this lesson, students will complete a worksheet by reading stories about innovations in drum set manufacturing.

At the conclusion of this lesson, students will visit Virtualdrumming.com to create their own drumbeat. Once a beat has been created, students will try changing the drum set sounds to experience how this changes the overall sound and feel of their beat.

Extensions/Adaptations

- Study characteristics of drumming in different genres. Discuss how and why different aspects or technological advances are necessary for performing different styles.
- Create a drumbeat from different genres on virtualdrumming.com with specific directions from the instructor.
- Choose a drummer to research. Look into what type of drum set they played, what types of percussion instruments were typically a part of their kit, what styles they played, and who influenced them.
- Choose a drum set manufacturing company to research. What is the history of the company? What advances in drum set technology are they responsible for? What are their top-selling products? Who are their endorsees?

Adaptations

- Use closed captions for videos, and allow text-to-speech for any required readings.
- Allow students to use speech-to-text to dictate their answers rather than writing.
- Share screenshots of the steps needed to use the drum machine tab.
- Share possible answers to the worksheet so that students can match the questions.
- For students who need extended time, ask them to complete four to five questions rather than all ten questions.

Spotlight on Careers in Music

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

- Clinician
- Drum Manufacturer
- Drum Technician
- Drum Circle Facilitator
- Music Therapist
- Performer
- Educator
- Retailer/Music Store Owner

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