

Lessons at a Glance

Secondary

1. Being Heard: Luthiers and Musicians

Upper Secondary Grades: 50 Minute Music Class

Theme: Acoustic Guitars - Musicians and instrument makers are closely connected and work together to adapt to a changing world. Luthiers (guitar makers) utilize responsive creativity to help musicians be heard in ever-changing ensembles and venues and ultimately influence the music they make.

2. Turn It Up: Amplifying Guitars

Lower Secondary Grades: 50-Minute Music Class, Cross-Curricular: STEAM/Acoustics

Theme: Electric Guitars - By the 1920s, the big band craze had driven many ensembles to be larger and louder than what even the loudest acoustic guitars could keep up with. Luthiers and engineers experimented with electricity to determine what this then-new technology could do to add volume.

3. Instruments on the Move!

Lower Secondary Grades: 50 Minute Music Class, Cross-Curricular: Science, Social Studies

Theme: Accordions and Mandolins - As people moved around the globe, the instruments they brought with them were sometimes adapted to suit new environments, audiences, and players. These new adaptations often led to new musical styles.

4. Making (Musical) Waves: The History and Evolution of the Ukulele and Banjo

Upper Secondary Grades: 50 Minute Music Class

Theme: Ukuleles and Banjos - Just as musical genres and styles shift in and out of the popular spotlight, instruments move with them.

5. The Changing Role of Music in Our Homes

Upper Secondary Grades: 50 Minute Class

Theme: Pianos and Keyboards - The home can be a vital and vibrant place for music making, from hosting a concert to entertaining family and friends to practicing and honing skills on an instrument. Music in the home has transformed significantly over the last 150 years, including how musical instruments and equipment are perceived and used.

6. Music Match Makers

Lower Secondary Grades: 45 Minute Music Class

Theme: Woodwinds & Brass - The match between a musician and their instrument is an essential part of making music. For many reasons, though, the right instrument for one musician might be completely different than the right instrument for another. Brass and woodwind instrument manufacturers have learned to make a wide range of instruments to fit many different needs.

7. Making Music Electric

Upper Secondary Grades: 45 Minute Music Class

Theme: Because of the advent of synthesis and other technological advances, instrument manufacturers developed instruments that harnessed the use of electricity. Those instruments still impact music making today.

8. The Sonic Palette: Drums and the Drum Set

Upper Elementary Grades

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

9. MIDI: Controlling the Sound

Lower Secondary Grades: 50 Minute Music Class

Theme: This lesson is centered on the development of MIDI and how students can use MIDI technology today in the creation of original music.

10. Making Music Anywhere

Upper Secondary Grades: 50 Minute Class

Theme: The introduction of affordable home recording and production equipment enabled new generations of musicians to innovate sounds and styles. Due to the quick response by the music products industry to advancements in technology, it is easier than ever to obtain the tools and create quality-sounding music from anywhere.

Note: Students will need to have basic familiarity with a DAW (digital audio workstation) such as SoundTrap or BandLab.

11. Innovation and Creativity in Musical Instruments

Upper Secondary Grades: 60 Minute Music Class

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.

12. Global Reverberations of Music Makers

Lower Secondary Grades: 50 Minute Music Class

Theme: Mandolins & accordions - Instruments travel around the world and bring change with them. This lesson examines the global influence on the development of new instruments and musical styles.

13. Beyond the Instruments

Upper Secondary Grades: 50 Minute Music Class

Theme: Musical instruments can come to represent something beyond themselves: works of art, catalysts for cultural change, or sanctuaries of comfort and connection. Music itself can create social change. Throughout the history of time, music has been integral in ushering in change.

14. "I Will Survive" Ingenuity in the Music Industry

Lower Secondary Grades: 50 Minute Music Class

Theme: This lesson highlights the perseverance and ingenuity of music retailers. Through critical thinking prompts, students get to use creativity and innovative thinking to develop solutions and learn from the past.

15. Think Like a Retailer

Lower Secondary Grades: 45 Minute Music Class

Theme: How do retailers play an important role in providing instruments and helping to create and support more music makers?

16. How to Create and Market Instruments

Upper Secondary Grades: 50 Minute Music Class

Cross-Curricular: Graphic Design

Theme: The music products industry is full of stories around the making and launching of new and modified instruments. Creating a successful product involves innovation, market research, and successful marketing efforts.