

World of Percussion

Brain Del Signore

Grades: 1-5

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

The World of Percussion is a multi-media presentation with live percussion performance, artist interaction, and digital presentation, designed for elementary schools to instill a love for music at an early age. In this program, Houston Symphony Principal Percussionist, Brian Del Signore, introduces students to percussion instruments and rhythms in a geographical trip around the world. The program starts with an introduction to the symphony orchestra and the four instrument groups (strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion). The word “percussion” is then defined and Mr. Del Signore discusses and shows examples of finding percussion instruments in the world around us, providing demonstrations and inviting student to take part in a world music “jam session”.

TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):

	Music	Science	Lang. Arts	Math	Social Studies	The Students Will: *Demonstrate good audience etiquette. *Practice positive speaking and listening skills. *Demonstrate reading comprehension skills. *Engage in original writing. *Practice problem solving.
K	K.1, 3, 4	K.6	K.1, 12	K.1	K.11, 12	
1	1.1, 5, 6	1.6	1.1, 13	1.1	1.15	
2	2.1, 5, 6	2.6	2.1, 13	2.1	2.15, 16	
3	3.1, 5, 6	3.6	3.1, 13	3.1	3.14, 15	
4	4.1, 5, 6	4.6	4.1, 13	4.1	4.19	
5	5.1, 5, 6	5.6	5.1, 13	5.1	5.21, 22	

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness):

Writing	Grade 4	Reporting Category 1	The Students Will: *Demonstrate an ability to compose a variety of written texts with a clear, controlling idea; coherent organization; sufficient development; and effective use of language and conventions. *Demonstrate an understanding of force, motion, and energy and their relationships.
Science	Grade 5	Reporting Category 2	

Academic Vocabulary:

strings	* a section of the orchestra that includes instruments such as violin, viola, bass, harp and piano. Strings are lengths of a flexible material that a musical instrument holds under tension so that they can vibrate freely, but controllably.
woodwinds	*a section of the orchestra that includes instruments such as flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and sometimes saxophone. They are cylindrical or conical tubes of wood that produce tones by the vibration of one or two reeds in the mouthpiece or by passing of air over a mouth hole. They have finger holes or keys by which the player may produce all the tones within the instrument's range.
brass	*a section of the orchestra that includes trumpets, trombones, tubas and French horns. They produce sound by sympathetic vibration of air in a tubular resonator in sympathy with the vibration of the player's lips.
percussion	*a section of the orchestra that includes the timpani, xylophone, cymbals, triangle, snare drum, bass drum, tambourine, maracas, gongs, chimes, celesta, and piano. These instruments are sounded by being struck or scraped by a beater, by hand or struck against another similar instrument.
symphony orchestra	* a large classical orchestra, including string, wind, brass, and percussion instruments.
jam session	* an informal gathering of musicians improvising together.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

Before the performance

- Ask: "Who has ever heard a symphony orchestra? What is it like? What kinds of musical instruments are in the orchestra?"
- Listen to a classical piece that involves a lot of percussion or a percussion orchestra.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eHqAgKN5wGc>

After the performance:

- Ask: "What did you learn about percussion? What did you learn about the symphony orchestra?"
- Write, draw, tell, sing, dance, or act out your favorite part of the presentation.

Language Arts:

- Write a poem, song, rap or short story about a symphony or a percussion instrument.
- Find words using the following letters. Put each letter on a card. Make the vowels a different color. Use the words to create a poem or story. Ideas: cone, coin, nose, noise, once, pine, press, purse, prune, cousin, rice, rinse, sour, spur, spine, spurn, snore, percuss, percussion

c	e	i	n	o
p	r	s	s	u

Math:

- Make up original math problems about the instruments in the orchestra.
- Clap out different fractions. Example: $\frac{3}{4}$ = clap, clap, clap, silent.
- Look at an image of an orchestra. Estimate, then count how many players are there.

Social Studies:

- Investigate musical instruments used in different cultures and historical times. Ideas: drums, flutes, banjo, dulcimer, marimba, spoons, washboard, etc.

Science:

- Explore how different materials vibrate. Ideas: rubber bands, tin can, oatmeal box, crumpled paper, soda bottle, etc.
- Make your own drums or other musical instruments. <https://www.learningliftoff.com/make-homemade-music-with-these-6-diy-instruments/>

Resources:

Related Websites:

https://www.classicsforkids.com/music/instruments_orchestra.php

<https://houstonpbs.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/6622a608-0f58-49c6-9b87-e3e113317ad7/musical-concepts-tympani/>

Related SmartBoard and Interactive Activities

http://exchange.smarttech.com/search.html?q=symphony&subject=All+subjects&grade=All+grades®ion=en_US

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Born in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, Brian Del Signore studied at Carnegie Mellon University and Temple University earning both Bachelors and Masters degrees in music performance. Since 1986, he has been the principal percussionist of the Houston Symphony, in Houston Texas.

Besides performing locally and internationally with Houston Symphony on a full time basis, Brian presents clinics and master classes for college-age music students around the USA, as well as outreach programs for youth in the Houston area through Young Audiences of Houston and the Houston Symphony