

Title: Nature Band

Objective: Create sound using objects from nature

Time: 20 minutes

Materials Needed: Various recycled opaque containers, one per student.
(Try to include tins, boxes, jars, bags, and plastic containers)

Interdisciplinary Lesson

Theme: Observation

Topic: Sounds

Suggested Grade Level: K-5

Indoors or Outdoors: Outdoors

Directions:

1. Have students select an opaque recycled container. Explain that they are going on a quick and quiet hike outdoors.
2. Students are to select one item on the hike to place in their container. It is okay to change out their item if they find something better, but they should just have one item in the container at the end of the hike.
3. Gather students together and place them in groups of four or five. They should shake the containers and make guesses as to what's inside and then line them up from the softest sound to the loudest sound. Discuss whether they think any of the sounds are alike.
4. Tell students they will use these containers and objects to form a band. Give them a few minutes to prepare and then have each group share their band's nature music.

Variation: Have students collect multiple items from nature without the containers. Tell them they will be creating a band using the objects selected. Have them prepare and share their band's nature music. (They may tap rocks together, tap sticks, rub bark or pinecones together, use silent feathers as a rest, etc.) Consider adding water sounds if there's a puddle or body of water.

Discussion Questions:

1. Was any group able to make use of all containers in their band?
2. What made the loudest sound? Softest sound? Did the container selected make a difference? Discuss.

Science and Engineering Practices:

1. Planning and carrying out investigations; 7. Engaging in argument from evidence; 8. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

Crosscutting Concepts:

1. Patterns; 2. Cause and effect: mechanism and explanation.

Disciplinary Core Ideas:

Physical Sciences: PS1: Matter and its interactions.

Background Information:

- Sound is something you hear. It is energy in the form of a vibration that travels through all matter. The air acts as a medium to transmit the sound from the source to our ear drums. Sounds can be soft or loud, high or low, long or short. They can be natural or human made.

Additional Resources:

- *Noisy Bugs Sing-Along* by John Himmelman
- *What Do You Hear? Animal Song Super Simple Songs* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVgv1EFJZHc>

Correlates with:

Greeting - Sound Wave Greeting (p. 34)

Activity - Sensory Listening Walk (p. 67)