



Indoors

3B Musical Box

Project Box Resources

- ✓ DVD Making music from Boxwood
- ✓ Laminated images of musical instruments
- ✓ Wooden blocks x 6 and list
- ✓ Powerpoint Enjoying the harvest Slide 5

Additional resources

- ✓ Music player.
- ✓ Musical instruments.
- ✓ Various materials/objects to make sounds.
- ✓ Recorded music to listen to.

Activities

Opening discussion: What is your favourite type of music or band and why (e.g. how it makes them feel, rhythm)? Play some music as an example and discuss what instruments can be heard. Make sounds using any musical instruments available. Talk about what the instruments are made from. Look at the various woodwind instruments that have historically been made from boxwood - recorders, flutes, oboes, flageolets, chalumeaux, bassoons and clarinets.

Spot the difference. Look at the images of the chalumeau and clarinet. Talk about how they are different and how they might have been made. Discuss the historic image of an instrument maker working in his workshop. Design your own instrument.

Watch the DVD Making Music from Boxwood. Listen to the opening piece of music then pause. How does it make you feel? What instrument is it? Play the clip of the musician Katherine. Pause after the first play of the clarinet. Imagine you are making an animated film story - what scenes would fit with each of the pieces of music played so far.

Sounds fun: Investigate how sound is produced. Make vibrations using everyday materials. Experiment with different sticks and logs to see what different sound can be made by tapping them.

Music from Africa: Refer to Slide 5. Research the mpingo tree and also the key aspects of the landscape, wildlife, people and music of Tanzania. Discuss the differences and similarities between Tanzania and England and the Box tree and Mpingo tree.

Extension/follow-up activities

- Research the different woods that are used to make instruments today. Does the timber come from trees that can be seen growing in the Chilterns today?
- Pupils who play the clarinet bring them into class to play.
- Research composers such as Monteverdi, Bach, Handel and Vivaldi and listen to their music.



3B Teachers' Notes

Learning Outcomes

- Understand how the properties of Boxwood has made it ideal for musical instruments.
- Develop listening skills and recognise and describe differences between instruments.
- Case study comparison of England with another country.

Curriculum Connections

Science: Sound as vibrations (yr 4)

Music: Appreciate a range of recorded music, listen with attention

Geography: World geography.

Preparation / Key Notes

Find a quiet time/space to do these activities so that children find it easier to listen. Access to the internet is needed for the research activity about the Mpingo tree.

Background Knowledge

Boxwood is very hard and dense and produces an extremely smooth surface. Instrument makers use this wood to give woodwind instruments a powerful, smooth and brilliant sound well suited to solo instruments. Boxwood woodwind instruments include recorders, flutes, oboes, flageolets, chalumeaux, bassoons and clarinets. Parts of stringed instruments can also be made of boxwood, including chin rests and pegs on violins.

The chalumeau was a folk woodwind instrument apparently originating in France and in use since the twelfth century. People liken the sound of the chalumeau to a singing voice. Instrument makers modified the chalumeau to invent the Baroque clarinet which offered a broader musical range than the chalumeau. Monteverdi, Bach, Handel and Vivaldi are well known Baroque composers. The production of boxwood woodwind instruments declined as foreign timber imports became more widely available, such as African blackwood, and the quieter Baroque chamber music gave way to larger, more dynamic orchestras that demanded other louder instruments.

The Mpingo Conservation and Development Initiative seeks to address a history of unsustainable harvesting of mpingo or African Blackwood trees growing in Africa. The timber is the wood of choice today for fine concert-quality woodwind instruments such as clarinets, oboes and flutes, as well as being used for bagpipes. In its African homeland, it is used to make intricate carvings.. The tree is a food source for wildlife such as elephants, giraffes, and wildebeests.

The Chilterns Box Woodland Project seeks to conserve the native Box tree and support sustainable woodland management so that the tree remains a special feature of the Chilterns landscape and boxwood cultural uses continue into the future.

Web-site links and further resources

African blackwood/mpingo: www.mpingoconservation.org/mpingo-its-habitats/the-tree/ and https://www.flickr.com/photos/mpingo_conservation_and_development_initiative/sets/

Chilterns Box Woodland Project: www.chilternsaonb.org/box