

The Orchestra Unveiled

Subject	Age level	Time
Music	11 – 12 years old	50-55 min

Teaching and learning aims

At the end of the lesson pupils will be able to:

- Introduce students to the concept of an orchestra and its basic instruments.
- Familiarize students with the sounds and sections of an orchestra.
- Encourage hands-on exploration through instrument creation.

Equipment and material

- Various orchestra instruments (if available) or visual aids (pictures, videos) showcasing orchestra instruments.
 - <https://youtu.be/EfedK-dqXWc>
- Materials for simple instrument creation: cardboard tubes, rubber bands, straws, etc. Depending on the time you have in class, you can create the instrument you want. In this video you have different handmade instruments; it would be interesting for each student to make the one he/she wants.
 - <https://youtu.be/jBAvqSYx9Do>
- Audio samples of orchestral music highlighting different sections.
 - <https://youtu.be/EfedK-dqXWc>

Learning outcomes (4 Cs)

Content

Identification of common orchestra instruments and their roles within an orchestra.

- Explanation: Students will be able to recognize and name various instruments typically found in an orchestra, understanding their basic functions and where they belong in the orchestra.

Cognition

Observation and association of sounds with specific orchestra sections.

- Explanation: Students will demonstrate the ability to listen attentively to orchestral excerpts, identify the distinct sounds produced by different sections (strings, brass, woodwinds, percussion), and understand their contributions to the overall sound.

Culture

Exposure to diverse musical elements represented in orchestral music.

- Explanation: Students will gain exposure to various musical genres and cultural aspects represented within orchestral compositions, fostering an appreciation for musical diversity.

Communication

Language Function:

Using music-related vocabulary in discussions and activities.

- Explanation: Students will employ specific vocabulary related to music, instruments, and orchestras during discussions and activities, enhancing their ability to communicate effectively in the context of music appreciation.

Vocabulary:

Acquisition of words related to orchestral music and instruments.

- Explanation: Students will learn and understand a range of vocabulary terms associated with orchestral music, instruments, sections, and musical terminology.

Verbs:

Using action-oriented words in the context of musical exploration.

- Explanation: Students will use verbs related to music (play, conduct, compose, etc.) when describing musical actions, roles, and activities within an orchestra.

Language structure:

Constructing simple sentences discussing orchestra-related topics.

- Explanation: Students will form basic sentences describing orchestra instruments, their functions, and their relationships within the orchestra, enhancing their language structure skills in a music-themed context.

Activities

Step 1: Introduction to the Orchestra (10 minutes)

- **Teacher's Explanation:** "Today, we'll explore the fascinating world of orchestras. An orchestra is a group of musicians playing different instruments. Let's discover what instruments make up an orchestra." Video: <https://youtu.be/dcm-1UP5O2Y>
- **Presentation of Orchestra Instruments:** Display or showcase pictures/videos of various orchestral instruments while briefly explaining their roles. Video: [Instruments of the Orchestra - YouTube](#)

Step 2: Instrument Demonstration (15 minutes)

- **Instrument Showcase:** Showcase real or simulated instruments (if available) with brief demonstrations from the teacher or a guest.
- **Q&A Session:** Encourage students to ask questions about the instruments demonstrated.

Step 3: Sound Exploration and Sections (15 minutes)



- **Listening Activity:** Play excerpts of orchestral music, pausing to discuss the sounds and identify different sections (strings, brass, woodwinds, percussion). Video: <https://youtu.be/bUL8NQy-3qw>
- **Discussion on Orchestra Sections:** Engage students in dialogue about the distinct sounds and roles of each orchestra section.

Step 4: Simple Instrument Creation (10 minutes)

- **Guided DIY Instrument Creation:** Guide students in creating simple instruments using provided materials.
- **Group Performance:** Allow students to briefly play their homemade instruments in a group setting.

Evaluation

Active Observation:

- **Participation and Engagement:** Observing each student's level of engagement during instrument demonstrations, orchestral section discussions, and homemade instrument creation.
- **Interaction and Questions:** Assessing the quality of questions asked by students and their interaction during group and listening activities.

Understanding Concepts:

- **Verbal Feedback:** Providing feedback as key concepts are introduced, checking students' understanding of instrument roles and orchestra sections through open-ended questions.
- **Verification of Instrument Identification:** Asking students to name specific instruments or sections as they listen to orchestral excerpts.

Creativity and Hands-On Engagement:

- **Assessment of Homemade Instruments:** Observing students' creativity and effort in creating and using their homemade instruments during the group performance activity.
- **Group Collaboration:** Evaluating interaction and collaboration among students while they play their improvised instruments together.

Knowledge Retention:

- **End-of-Class Summary:** Requesting students to summarize their learning about orchestra structure and instrument sounds at the conclusion of the lesson.
- **Comprehension Questions:** Asking comprehension questions at the lesson's end to assess retention of information about instruments and orchestra sections.

Assessment Method

- **Formative and Ongoing:** Providing regular feedback throughout the class to correct misunderstandings and reinforce key concepts.
- **Open-ended Questions and Oral Responses:** Positing open-ended questions to encourage active participation and check students' comprehension.
- **Participative Evaluation:** Assessing students' participation in hands-on activities and their ability to apply acquired knowledge about instruments and orchestra sections.