

Music Class Puppets

12 Creative Lesson Plans *with* Student-Made Puppets

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WHY SHOULD I USE PUPPETS IN MY MUSIC CLASSROOM?

Creating and using puppets can reinforce musical concepts by directly connecting with aural, visual, and kinesthetic learning styles, while actively engaging each child. Creating and learning with puppets can also provide collaborative opportunities not only for you, but with other classroom teachers or art instructors. Puppets are a tangible prop that can enliven musical performances. They can also be used to create an interest-stimulating, music-themed hallway, or for classroom decorations. Most importantly, puppets add an element of fun and entertainment to your bulletin board, music instruction, grasping and retaining your students' attention, creativity, and curiosity, while motivating them to join you on a lifelong musical journey.

—Greg Foreman & Valeaira Luppens

Aquarium

MUSICAL CONCEPTS Tempo, Dynamics, Expression

MEDIA Recording of "Aquarium" from ***Carnival of the Animals*** by Camille Saint-Saëns

GRADE
LEVEL
K-2

Lesson Plan

1 Introduction:

Today we will be learning about a composition called "Aquarium," written by the French composer Camille Saint-Saëns. "Aquarium" is just one of the 14 movements from the musical suite *Carnival of the Animals*. Saint-Saëns loved writing this music because it was so much fun!

- 2 Ask the students if they have ever seen an aquarium with fish swimming through the water. Based on their observations, have students predict whether the tempo of this music will be fast or slow (*andantino*–slow); loud or soft (*piano*–soft); smooth or choppy (*legato*–smooth).
- 3 Listen to the music. Were the student predictions correct? Ask them to describe the music they heard. (*Slow, soft, smooth. Beautiful melody. Strings, piano, flute, celeste.*)
- 4 Construct the fish puppets.
- 5 When the puppets are completed, gather the students in a seated circle. Instruct them to create a "slow, flowing wave" in a circular manner with their puppets as they listen to the recording once more.

Extension Activity

Listen to Franz Schubert's "Die Forelle," and lead students in a discussion about the piece. Finish by moving the fish puppets in a matching style while the music plays.

Chick Puppet

Materials

- Chick puppet template printed on white cardstock
- Craft sticks
- Scissors
- Paper fasteners
- Glue
- Crayons or markers

Directions

- 1 Cut out the egg and chick.
- 2 Use crayons or markers to color the chick.
(If this lesson is taught during the Easter season, students may color the egg as well.)
- 3 Glue the chick to a craft stick.
- 4 Place the egg on top of the chick, and connect them with a paper fastener.

