

Course Syllabus

What you will learn in this course



ARTS

Middle School Exploring Music 1b

Using Your Instruments

MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPLORING MUSIC 1B: USING YOUR INSTRUMENTS

Building upon the prior prerequisite course, learn to expand your understanding and appreciation of music. You will discover more about your singing voice, musical instruments, and composition, while taking in the history and culture of music over the years. You will find this course a valuable resource for any career in music.

Unit 1: Instrumental Skills

Picture yourself listening to your favorite song. What instruments can you detect? Even modern music, which is heavily dependent on electronic “instruments,” is based on instruments you may know well: guitar, trumpets, drums, piano (synthesizers). Maybe you’re familiar with video games where you competitively play virtual instruments—Guitar Hero, anyone?

What will you learn in this unit?

- Identify the different instrument families
- Define the difference between classical music and world music
- Become familiar with world instruments
- Discuss musicianship and musical repertoire

UNIT 1 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Unit 1 Text Questions	Homework
Unit 1 Lab	Homework
Unit 1 Activity	Homework
Unit 1 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 1 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 1 Quiz	Quiz

Unit 2: Musical Cultures

Human beings have been creating and enjoying music for thousands of years. Because we're such a creative species, we use music to communicate, solidify social bonds, and entertain ourselves, so this music has evolved into different categories. As you can see from our study of world instruments, the sky's the limit when it comes to creating new music and new instruments. Now, let's become familiar with the ways music has evolved over time and in different places

What will you learn in this unit?

- Understand why music developed differently in different times and places
- Summarize the history of music from the ancient period through the 20th century
- Distinguish the music of various genres
- Discuss the role of technology in the evolution of music

UNIT 2 Assignments

Assignment	Type
Unit 2 Text Questions	Homework
Unit 2 Lab	Homework
Unit 2 Activity	Homework
Unit 2 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 2 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 2 Quiz	Quiz

Middle School Exploring Music 1b Midterm Exam

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from the first two units in this course (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

MIDTERM Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Midterm Exam	Exam
Midterm Discussion Assignment	Discussion

Unit 3: Dynamic Performing

Let's rock! It's time to finally put all of our musical skills to work as we learn to play the guitar together. But first, we'll talk about good performances. Have you ever felt chills down your spine as you listened to a piece of music? How does that happen, and how can we make sure we are performing well for the audience? Let's find out!

What will you learn in this unit?

- Discuss why preparation and musicianship are essential for an effective musical performance
- Identify signs of performance anxiety and develop tools to combat it
- Understand how to hold, tune, and use proper finger positioning on the guitar
- Practice a simple guitar progression

UNIT 3 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Unit 3 Text Questions	Homework
Unit 3 Lab	Homework
Unit 3 Activity	Homework
Unit 3 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 3 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 3 Quiz	Quiz

Unit 4: Composing and Arranging

By sticking with a few guidelines, we all have the power to follow in the footsteps of Beethoven or Bernstein! When we compose new music, we will draw upon our musical elements and put them together to create a new piece of music.

What will you learn in this unit?

- Discuss why the definition of a “good” composition will vary
- Craft melody and harmony
- Explain how a melodic motive and chord progression work together
- Utilize various compositional techniques such as repetition, contrast, and variation

UNIT 4 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Unit 4 Text Questions	Homework
Unit 4 Lab	Homework
Unit 4 Activity	Homework
Unit 4 Discussion 1	Discussion

Unit 4 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 4 Quiz	Quiz

Middle School Exploring Music 1b Final Exam

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from all units in this course. (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

FINAL Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Final Exam	Exam
Class Reflection Discussion Assignment	Discussion

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