An African Safari into Creativity

Grade Level:
3-5

Integrated Subjects
Language Arts, Performing Arts-Music, Visual Arts

Lesson Overview
In this lesson students will assign an orchestral instrument to an African animal, using characteristics which they have in common. The students will write a cinquain poem and create a poster (collage) with their African animal as the theme.

Student Learning Overview
The students will research an African animal to learn some of its characteristics. Students will recognize characteristics and tone of an orchestral instrument and pair that instrument with their animal. They will also create a poem and a poster.

Learning Sequence
Lesson 1: Partner the students in groups of two and assign an animal to each group. The partners begin their research using various sources (fiction, nonfiction, reference texts, internet, etc.) Partners take notes on animal information and characteristics. Assign students to complete additional research as homework.

Lesson 2: The students listen to Peter and the Wolf. Play it through the first time for the students to hear the story. Play it a second time, asking the students to pay close attention to how the instruments enforce the characteristics of the animals and people in the story.

Lesson 3: Listen to the tone of orchestral instruments being played individually. The students are to select and pair an instrument with their animal using similar characteristics.

Lesson 4: Write a cinquain style poem about their animal.

Lesson 5: Create a poster collage about their animal.

Assessment
The students' participation will be considered in the assessment. Each partner shall have contributed to all areas of the project. The music pairing will be assessed by how well the students explain their reasons for pairing the instrument with the animal. The poems and poster/collage will be assessed knowledge of their animal's characteristics and creativity.

Classical Music Used In This Lesson
Peter and the Wolf by Sergey Prokofiev

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Materials & Equipment

CD of *Peter and the Wolf*, paper, pencil, multiple sources for research, CD of individual orchestra instruments, art paper for collage, scissors, glue, paint, and brushes (multi-media; anything to make collage interesting).

Time Required

Five 50 - 60 minutes lessons (some research to be completed as homework

National Music Standards

Listening to, analyzing, and describing music

Understanding relationships between music, other arts, and outside disciplines

State Standards

Oklahoma: General Music, Grade 3, Standard 1:1c; Language Arts, Grade 3, Research and Information; Standard 6.2b and 6.2c; Modes and Forms of Writing, Standard 2.5; Visual Art, Grade 3, Visual Art Expression; Standard 3.2, Visual Art Appreciation; Standard 4.2 and 4.3

Connections to Pathways to Integration

GREEN: Music content merged with other content areas

Inclusion/English Language Learner

The ELL student may write their poem in their native language and translate it into English. (It would be interesting to see how the rhythm of the poem changes with the different languages.) The ELL student could also translate the other students' poems into their native language.

Teacher to Teacher

This lesson has many possibilities; use different research topics. The topics could cover many areas in science and social studies. The students could write a different type of poem. More advanced students could compose as short musical piece for the instrument they paired their animal with.
Portfolio Documents

Lion
- cat
- big
- furious
- sleeps all day
- eats animals

by Pavia Freeman and
Josh Fleisching

Baboon
- Monkey
- swift climber
- eats bugs and fruit
- lives wild

by Dilley Panther
and Biana Waddaler

Ostrich
- tall, swift
- long legs, head is sand
- runs about

by Caylee Thompson and Aspen Webb

Hippo
- Hippopotamus
- likes water
- plant eating mammal
- mud bath
- River horse

by Nina Bieboldt
Katie Cunningham

Wildbeest
- Wildbeest
- strong
- huge horns
- gnu

by Daniel Kingfisher
Lily Green

Zebra
- Grass eating
- black and white stripes
- African animal

by Madison Borden
Adrianna Assersmith