Kindergarten Carnival!

Grade Level:

PK-2

Integrated Subjects

Language Arts, Science, Technology, Visual Arts, Performing Arts-Music, Performing Arts-Other

Lesson Overview

This is a series of lessons on Carnival of the Animals by Camille Saint-Saëns, and is the culmination of a science unit on animals. During the animal unit, students learned about the different ways animals move. As an extension to the concept of how animals move, they were introduced to the book that accompanies the music of Carnival of the Animals. Each day we read and listened to one selection from the book and CD. We discussed various musical elements such as dynamics, tempo, and orchestration. Following a deep listening activity, the children drew a picture to go along with the animal's music. The book contained some of the high frequency words that Kindergartners are required to learn. At the end of the unit the students voted on their favorite selection from the Carnival of the Animals. We graphed the results. Then the children drew a picture of their favorite animal. They dictated a sentence or two about the choice they made, including something about the dynamics and tempo of the music. For a homework assignment, the students took their books home along with a copy of the music CD. Parents were asked to listen with their children and do a homework activity based on their listening experience.

Student Learning Overview

Students will learn about the instruments of the orchestra by using the CD and book Those Amazing Musical Instruments. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the musical terms forte, piano, lento, allegro, staccato and legato. They will demonstrate the ability to keep the beat by using their bodies as well as conducting batons made from popsicle sticks.

Learning Sequence

1. Connect to prior knowledge. Review the different ways animals move.
2. Introduce composer Camille Saint-Saens and describe some of the instruments of the orchestra.
3. Play each selection from Carnival of the Animals separately. Discuss tempo and dynamics. Provide the students the opportunity to do some visualization and move to the music.
4. Draw a picture of the animal in the book. Read the sentence prompt for the child-made book. (i.e. Here is the lion. Forte.)
5. After listening to all the pieces, the students vote on their favorite part. Graph the results.
6. Students illustrate their favorite part and dictate a sentence.
7. Send home the book with a copy of the CD asking parents to listen with their children. Parents tell which is their favorite and why and the students illustrate.
8. Students return their homework assignment to share in class.
Assessment

Students loved Carnival of the Animals. They enjoyed making their books and loved sharing it with their families. Most students liked “The Swan” the best. Most students had an understanding of basic musical terms such as beat, tempo and dynamics. They especially liked being the conductor and moving like the animals in the piece!

Classical Music Used In This Lesson

_Carnival of the Animals_ by Camille Saint-Saens

Materials & Equipment

CD Player, _Carnival of the Animals_ (Book and CD) Commentary by Barrie Carson Turner and illustrations by Sue Williams. Book and CD Rom- _Those Amazing Musical Instruments_. Computer, projector and screen, art supplies

Time Required

Fifteen minutes per day for two to three weeks. I introduced one animal over a few days, but it would be shorter if you did one animal a day or more than one per day.

National Music Standards

Listening to, analyzing, and describing music
Evaluating music and music performances
Understanding relationships between music, other arts, and outside disciplines

State Standards

CA: English-Language Arts, 1.0, 1.12, 1.15; Science 2.a, 2.b; Math 1.1; Music 1.0, 4.0

Connections to Pathways to Integration

GREEN: Music content merged with other content areas

Inclusion/English Language Learner

EL students were shown real pictures of animals that were featured in Carnival of the Animals, as well as real pictures of the featured instruments.

Teacher to Teacher

Check out some of the short videos on YouTube. The children really enjoyed seeing the kangaroos and the aquarium.
Portfolio Images
Carnival of the Animals child-made book content:

Here is the lion. **Forte**.
Here are the hens. **Staccato**.
Here are the mules. **Presto**.
Here are the tortoises. **Adagio**.
Here are the elephants. **Waltz**.
Here are the kangaroos. **Staccato**.
Here are the fish. **Legato**.
Here are the donkeys. **Forte**.
Here is the cuckoo. **Piano**.
Here are the birds. **Piano**.
Here are the pianists. **Forte**.
Here are the fossils. **Allegro**.
Here is the swan. **Legato**.
Finale. The End. Bravo!
My favorite is ____________.

Pages from child-made book:
Samples of student’s art and dictation:

Portfolio Links


Portfolio Documents

Note home to Parents:

Dear Parents:

Your children have been listening to Carnival of the Animals by Camille Saint-Saens (1835-1921). He was a famous French composer, who, at three years old was playing piano, and by seven years old was composing music. Carnival of the Animals is an orchestral suite of pieces written about animals. It was intended as a musical joke for the last big party before Lent (similar to Mardi Gras in New Orleans). People dressed in elaborate costumes and masks, etc. for this event. Saint-Saens makes the animals come alive in what has become one of the greatest of children's classics. This week your child will bring home a book he/she partly colored while listening to the piece. At the end of the book they have chosen their favorite part and dictated a sentence about it.

Please listen to this piece with your child; you may want to color as you listen, since we didn't have time to finish every page. Tell them what your favorite part is and why. Write a sentence about it and have your child illustrate your favorite part. Return this homework when you can.

Have fun listening!