

Bring on the Noise

Post-Visit Activities

Grades 3-5

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Activities

These activities are intended for use after your visit to the Virginia Air and Space Center. Your students should recall the information, demonstration and activities from the Bring on the Noise program in order to do these activities. All of the activities can be tailored to your specific classroom needs, and the procedures listed are suggestions for teaching.

Activity 1: Sound Scientists

Review with your students how sound waves traveling through air allow us to hear sounds. Tell them that today, they are going to use their sense of hearing to be scientists. Have boxes with different everyday items in them such as: rocks, coins, a pencil, a super ball, keys, a cork, etc. Cigar boxes work well for this.

Have the students set up a prediction sheet on a piece of paper, labeled with the number of bags/boxes you have. Walk around the room and shake or roll the box, allowing the students to hear the item moving inside. Allow them time to write their predictions then move to the next box. Continue until all have been heard. Ask for the predictions and the reasons behind them. Accept all answers. Reveal the items to the students and see how many predictions were right. ** If the students were to shake the boxes themselves, they may have predicted better because they would also be using their sense of touch to feel the weight of the object.

Explain that the sound of the object traveled in waves through the box and the air to get their ears.

Activity 2: Organized Noise **This activity may get LOUD!

Ask the students “What is noise?” Take all answers. Ask the students “What is music?” Take all answers. Then ask, “What is the difference between noise and music?” Take all answers. Explain that some people think that rock music is an unpleasant noise, and some think that the sound of an engine is music. Music can be described as “organized noise”, but many people have personal opinions of what each are.

Ask the students to demonstrate a noise. Call on several students; some may bang on desks, yell, drop a book, etc. Ask the students to demonstrate music. Call on several students; some may sing or bang out a rhythm on their desks. Explain to them that they will be taking a noise and making it into music.

Explain that rhythm, or the beat, is a pattern and all music must have a rhythm. Clap out a simple pattern with them. Allow each student to make a noise, in the classroom or at their desks, and instead of clapping the rhythm, have them make the noise to the beat instead. Change the pattern to make it a little more complex and see if the students can pick it up with their noises. Tell them they just made organized noise.

Ask them to demonstrate what they learned. Split the class into small groups. Tell each group to make their own pattern with their noises. Give them several minutes to practice. Ask each group to present their “organized noise” to the class.

Extension: Ask each person in the group to make his or her own rhythm, just as the drums, guitars and keyboards do in a band. Have all the students perform their rhythms at the same time to hear what their “organized noise” sounds like.

Extension: Assign the kids to make their own musical instruments, at home or at school, and have them create “organized noise” with them.

Resources

Websites

www.stompline.com

<http://library.thinkquest.org/19537/?tqskip1=1>

www.kathimitchell.com/sound.htm

www.proteacher.com/110015.shtml **Click on The Science of Sound by 5th graders

www.teach-nology.com/teachers/lesson_plans/music/

www.sfskids.org/templates/musicLabF.asp?pageid=12

www.musicinventions.org/base/page11.html

Books

Sound. Caroline Grimshaw. 1998.

The Magic School Bus in the Haunted Museum: a Book about Sound. Joanna Cole. 1995.

The Magic of Sound. Larry Kettelkamp. 1982

Using Sound. Sally and Adrian Morgan. 1994

The Science Book of Sound. Neil Ardley. 1991

Rubberband Banjos and a Java Jive Bass: Projects and Activities on the Science of Music and Sound. Alex Sabbeth. 1997

The Science of Sound and Music. Shar Levine and Leslie Johnstone. 2000

Sound and Music. Barbary Taylor. 1990

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