

Meet the Band: Teaching Tips

You might want to collaborate with your music or band teacher on these activities.

Activities

1. Show the students the *Meet the Band* vignette (page 3 or project the slide in the PowerPoint) and provide time for them to respond to this vignette using visual thinking strategies. Ask them to identify the different instruments.

Then look at the painting as a whole (page 4 or project the slide in the PowerPoint). What elements draw your attention to the band?

2. The artist used the instruments on this website as reference:

<http://www.rugs-n-relics.com/Brass/civilwarTN.html>

Using the website and previous experience with these instruments, identify as many instruments as you can - at least as general classes (bugle, tuba, cornet, trumpet, trombone, drum). You might want to enlist your music teacher to assist.

3. Listen to some of the instruments by going to the websites below, then discuss why these instruments were selected for military bands:

- You can listen to Kentucky students playing some of these instruments here:

<http://www.ket.org/artstoolkit/wom/making/instruments.htm#instrument>

- Edward Huttlin demonstrates different sounds trombone can make

<http://ket.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/5a4b9db5-1365-4968-ad8f-5a0c55d42f2f/musical-concepts-trombone/>

- Tom Strait explains how a trumpet works

<http://ket.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/339431fd-3067-424c-9840-dc157b50a43d/musical-concepts-trumpet/>

- Bugle calls

<http://www.music.army.mil/music/buglecalls/default.asp>

4. Develop listening skills by having students listen to bugle calls at

<http://www.music.army.mil/music/buglecalls/default.asp>

Divide them into teams to compete for who can most accurately and quickly identify different bugle calls.

5. Listen to Saxton's Brass Band playing Yankee Doodle at

<http://ket.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/earam.arts.music.yankeedoodle/early-america-yankee-doodle-dandy/>

While the melody predates the Revolutionary War, the lyrics were written by a British surgeon in 1755 to poke fun at Colonists. “Yankee” was a term used to refer to colonists and “doodle” meant a country bumpkin. During the Revolutionary War, the colonists took up the song and reportedly played it during the battles of Lexington and Concord. Both the Union and Confederate troops sang Yankee Doodle during the Civil War, but the Confederate version started with “Dixie whipped old Yankee Doodle early in the morning.”

Discuss how music can help us understand the perspectives of people in different cultures and different time periods.

Have students research other songs that were popular during the Civil War and share their research through a multimedia presentation that includes the song (live or recorded). Their report should focus on the song in its historic role during the Civil War era and should include what the song expresses about the culture of that time period.

Here are some examples. Students may also identify other songs:

- Yankee Doodle
- Home, Sweet Home
- Nearer My God to Thee
- Battle Hymn of the Republic
- Nelly Bly
- Maryland, My Maryland
- Lorena
- The First Gun is Fired
- When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again
- God Save the South
- Dixie
- Bonnie Blue Flag
- Star Spangled Banner
- Battle Cry of Freedom
- I’m Going Home to Dixie
- Aura Lee
- John Brown’s Body
- Tenting Tonight

6. Have small groups of students research careers in various branches of the United States military and share their findings.



