

Sounds of Music- Pitch Games

Teaching Objective

Students will gain understanding of musical pitch.

Vocabulary

Pitch- The relative highness or lowness of a sound.

Resources

Group A.

- Piece of wood at least 12 inches long and 2 inches wide
- Long rubber band
- 2 nails
- Hammer

Group B.

- 3 identical drinking glasses
- 1 metal spoon

Group C.

- Empty plastic soda bottles (1 per student) and water

Pre-Assessment

Determine if the students are familiar with how sound is produced by asking them to discuss what they know about sound and vibration.

Teaching Sequence

1. Divide the class into three (3) groups of students,
2. Issue one set of resource materials and instructions (A, B or C) to each group.

Group A.

1. Hammer nails at each end on the same side of the wood.
2. Stretch the rubber band around the nails.
3. Pluck the rubber band and listen to the sound it makes.
4. Have another student hold the rubber band down to the wood midway between the two nails and pluck one end of the band.
5. Discuss what happened to the pitch when the rubber band was shortened.

Group B.

1. Fill one of the drinking glasses with 1/4 cup of water; another with 1/2 cup of water and leave the other glass empty.
2. Using a spoon, "play" each glass by clinking the side.
3. Discuss the pitch of the sounds created by the glasses and spoon.

Group C.

1. Allow students about three (3) minutes to experiment with the sounds they can produce by blowing air across the opening at the top of a soda bottle.
2. Have the students fill their bottles with different amounts of water.
3. Again, let the students experiment with the sounds they can produce.

4. Discuss how the different amounts of the water affected the sounds produced.

Culminating Activities

Randomly call each group to demonstrate their work for each other, allowing time for questions and further discussion.

Evaluation

Do the students demonstrate an understanding of musical pitch?

Extension Activity

Perform the "Creating Musical Sound" lesson