



Musical Instruments During the Gold Rush

Lesson Plan

Grade Level(s)	K – 8
Name of Lesson/Activity	Musical Instruments During the Gold Rush
Learning Outcomes/Outputs	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be aware of what musical instruments were played during the Yukon Gold Rush - Discuss the value of music in 1897 and in current times - Have the opportunity to hold and attempt to play different instruments
Subject Area(s) - see also Curriculum Links at end	Music (Arts Education)
Suggested Introductory Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Read the article about Reverend Bowen bringing a concertina to the Yukon which he did not initially know how to play. - How did he eventually become good at playing it (practice!) and how does this relate to new things which anyone tries? - Who in the class listens to music and what do you like about it? - Who in the class plays a musical instrument and what do you like about it?
Main Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - List with students or have them research what musical instruments were common during the Gold Rush and why - Of these instruments, which ones are still commonly used today and which have become less common (e.g. concertina)? - Ask who plays an instrument and identify what instruments are in the school or available to them - Show the students the Old Log Church Museum concertina and explain basics of how to hold and

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	play; let students take turns attempting; combine with other small portable instruments which could include instruments which some students already play
Resources/Materials Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reverend Bowen story - OLCM concertina and internet references on basics of playing (or someone who knows how to play it) - Other musical instruments available for school use (e.g. guitar, harmonica)
Time Required	1 - 3 classes
Any Specific Instructions	Remind students about handling instruments carefully and with respect so that others can enjoy.
Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make simple homemade instruments with students and see what they can create in terms of music (see References) - Students could research homemade instruments in small groups and choose 1 or more to build and play (check that different groups are choosing different instruments so there is variety) - Depending on students, could attempt to play a simple song using a variety of real or homemade instruments; might work better in small groups (Like a “Battle of the Bands” without the amplifiers) - Apply to Artist in the Schools to have a musician (or musicians) visit – maybe someone who could play a nice tune on the concertina? Or give a lesson on how to make/play various homemade instruments
Post/Follow-up Activities	Could reference Artists in Residence on the Chilkoot Trail including violinist Anthony Wallace (summer 2017)
Curriculum Links	<p>Arts Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create artistic works collaboratively and as an individual, using ideas inspired by imagination, inquiry, experimentation, and purposeful play (Gr K – 8)



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References

The Plumber's Pipe - Making Simple Flutes from PVC Plumbing Pipe
<http://www.markshep.com/flute/Pipe.html>

How To Build Homemade PVC and CPVC Flutes
<http://mattwins.blogspot.ca/2016/01/building-homemade-pvc-and-cpvc-flutes.html>

Shoebox Guitar
<http://www.minieco.co.uk/cardboard-instruments/>

Popsicle Stick Harmonica
<http://www.housingaforest.com/popsicle-stick-harmonica/c>

Pin Strummers
<http://www.piikeastreet.com/2012/06/pin-strummers/>

Making a Kazoo
<https://buggyandbuddy.com/exploring-sound-making-a-kazoo-science-invitation-saturday/>

Homemade Maracas
<https://www.whatsupfagans.com/m-is-for-music-preschool-lesson-plan/>

<http://www.celticmusicinstruments.com/how-to-play-the-concertina/>

<http://bcgoldrushpress.com/2012/11/music-bc-gold-rush>

Simple Concertina Chords
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZREXEWTK_UAd

Additional Resources

The OLCM is happy to arrange a loan of a reproduction concertina.

The Story of Richard Bowen's Concertina

In 1894, the Reverend Richard Bowen volunteered to go to the Yukon to help Bishop Bompas. Bowen was travelling to the North for the first time and thought bringing a musical instrument might be a good idea. He decided to teach himself how to play the concertina, to the annoyance of other passengers on his ship. The story goes that one man threatened to throw either Bowen or the concertina overboard, unless he stopped playing! Thankfully, he must have improved, because Bowen became well-known for his playing and musically-starved congregations in Dawson City, Forty Mile, and Whitehorse enjoyed hearing it. Reverend Bowen's wife, Susan, said that a man visiting from an outside camp was so confused and excited when he heard music that he forgot he was at a church service, stood up, and demanded to know where the music was coming from. The Reverend held up his concertina to show him. The concertina had only been invented fifty years before, so it would have been considered a relatively new instrument, especially in the Yukon! Its small size means its portable – an important consideration when many people travelled by boat, horse, or on foot.



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