

An Introduction to the Woodwind Family

Lesson Plan written by Dan and Heidi Goeller

Music Lesson Plan for Grades K-4

Objectives

- To learn the names of and be able to identify the instruments in the woodwind family
- To become familiar with the sound of the woodwind instruments

Introduction

The woodwind family consists of the flutes and the reeds. The concert flute and piccolo, a smaller higher-pitched type of flute, are usually made of silver or a silver-plated metal like copper. The clarinet is made of wood and is played by blowing air onto a single reed in the mouthpiece. The oboe and bassoon are also made of wood but produce a tone by blowing air onto a double reed. Because of its large size, the bassoon plays the lowest notes in the woodwind section.

Materials

- The *Woodwind Family* handout
- The *Selfish Giant* audio CD

Procedure

- Point out the picture of the flute on the handout. Direct the students to listen for the flute as they listen to the first 45 seconds of “How Sweetly Sing the Birds” on the CD (track 2).
- Point out the difference in size between the flute and piccolo. Explain to the students that because the piccolo is shorter (in length) than the flute it produces a higher pitch. Direct the students to listen for the piccolo as they listen to the first 25 seconds of “Spring Returns” (track 7).
- Point out the picture of the clarinet. Remind students that it uses a single reed. Direct the students to listen for the clarinets portraying Jack Frost’s brush painting the trees silver in “Winter’s Dance” (track 6, 0:32-0:48).
- Point out the picture of the oboe. The oboe has a double reed. Direct the students to listen for the oboe as it portrays “The Wistful Flower” (track 5, 0:30-end).
- Point out the picture of the bassoon. Note its large size. Direct the students to listen as the bassoon personifies the tree as it stretches to reach down to the crying boy (track 8, 1:40-2:02).

Follow-Up Questions

1. The concert flute and piccolo are made out of what materials?
2. How would you describe the sound of the flute and piccolo?
3. Which of the woodwind instruments plays the lowest notes?
4. Which woodwind uses a single reed?
5. Which woodwind instrument’s sound do you like the best? Why?

This lesson plan provided courtesy of Noteworthy Books at www.SelfishGiantMusic.com



The Woodwind Family

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Flute



Piccolo



Clarinet



Oboe



Bassoon