

Pictou County Forest School - Grade 12 Lesson Plans
Advanced Global Geography 12

Activity: Forest Orchestra (suggested time: full day activities)

General Curriculum Outcomes:

Creating, Making, and Presenting:

- 1. explore, challenge, develop, and express ideas using the skills, language, techniques, and processes of the arts
- 2. create and/or present, collaboratively and independently, expressive products in the arts for a range of audiences and purposes

Context:

Today's activities are very much an open inquiry; a chance for students to experiment, take risks, and to begin to see, hear and appreciate that the potential for music surrounds us all the time. From wind whispering through conifer needles, to the difference in resonance that is achieved by striking different species of wood, the potential for music is infinite.

Materials:

- Found natural materials

Intro/Activation:

or·ches·tra

a group of [instrumentalists](#), especially one combining string, [woodwind](#), brass, and percussion sections and playing classical music.

Talk about what an orchestra is and how an orchestra functions via the various elements interacting with each other. Is this possible using non-traditional instruments and/or found natural materials?

Introduce students to some various musical elements found in the forest:

- Bang two dry pieces of wood together vs banging two wet pieces of wood together.
- Wind whispering through the hemlocks (swing a hemlock bough to simulate this)

Send students off to find natural forest materials that can be used as musical instruments or different media that present different sonic characteristics and bring them back to share with the group. Discussion to follow.

Activity:

In groups students are asked to use found natural materials as musical instruments. Each group is asked to create a piece of music to share with the group.

This activity can be done via short 30 minute segments while visiting different locations at PCFS. How does the physical landscape influence the sonic landscapes that are created?

- meadow

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- hemlock forest
- brook
- bog
- gravel road

Students can create one final piece using elements found throughout the day from all locations.