

Directions: Explore the Orchestra

Access the [course page here](#). Print all of the materials listed there – this course page has everything you need!



Getting Started

The Explore the Orchestra curriculum is designed to introduce students to the instruments and families of the orchestra through interactive learning, guided listening, and hands-on activities.

The lessons can be used in sequence as a full orchestra unit, or you can choose individual sections to fit your classroom needs. I recommend the following order:

1. Being with orchestra presentation, then complete the workbook (OR, complete the workbook as you progress through the presentation).
2. Play the Orchestra Game Shows (I recommend starting with the 'Orchestra Game Show', then the 'Orchestra Sounds' game).
3. Finish with the Color and Listen activity, and the optional bonus game. (Directions for all of these are available on the course page).

Suggested Uses:

You can adapt this curriculum to fit your teaching environment! Here are some flexible ways to use it:

- Project the interactive presentations for whole-group instruction
- Use with an interactive whiteboard so students can participate during listening and identification activities
- Assign activities for at-home learning or sub plans
- Use printable worksheets and Color and Listen activity for review, assessment, or independent practice

Happy Teaching!

-Abby

abby@abigailmettry.com

Continue the learning (for free!) 🎵

Get bonus activities, printables, and exclusive resources for your students:

→ *Free Music Alphabet Starter Packet*



Standards Alignment

This resource supports the National Core Arts Standards for Music by helping students identify, describe, analyze, and respond to musical sounds and instruments of the orchestra through guided listening, visual identification, and interactive activities.

Performing

MU:Pr4.2 — Demonstrate understanding of the structure and elements of music

(Students identify instrument families, timbre, pitch, and musical characteristics through listening activities.)

MU:Pr4.3 — Demonstrate and explain how context informs musical performance

(Students explore the role of instruments within the orchestra and how different instruments contribute to musical expression.)

Responding

MU:Re7.2 — Describe how specific music concepts are used to support a response to music

(Students compare instrument sounds, describe tone color/timbre, and respond to guided listening examples.)

MU:Re8.1 — Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work

(Students discuss how different instruments create mood, character, and musical effects.)

MU:Re9.1 — Apply criteria to evaluate musical works and performances

(Students identify and categorize instruments by family and sound characteristics.)

Connecting

MU:Cn10.0 — Demonstrate how interests, knowledge, and skills relate to personal choices and intent when creating or responding to music

(Students connect orchestra music and instruments to historical, cultural, and personal listening experiences.)



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