



CLASS ACTIVITY: PERFORMING PICTURES

OVERVIEW

In this activity, students will work to understand how elements of pitch, rhythm, and dynamics can represent visual images.

MATERIALS: Rhythm instruments/noise makers (1 per student), a variety of different pictures printed on slips of paper

INSTRUCTIONS

Prior to the activity, prepare a variety of pictures on slips of paper and place in a bag. The pictures should depict activities or actions that can be easily paired with sound. For example: galloping horses, a rainstorm, the ocean, dogs barking, a baseball game, etc.

Divide students into smaller groups of 4 or 5 and pass out rhythm instruments/noise makers. Each group will pick a picture from the bag, keeping the picture they picked a secret from the other groups. Once all groups have selected a picture, give students a few minutes to decide how they will use the provided instruments to create a “sound-scape” for their picture. Use the following questions to help guide them in their discussion:

- Would the picture sound loud or soft?
- Fast or slow?
- Happy or sad?

After groups have had time to discuss, have each group perform their “sound-scape” for the other groups, still being sure to keep their picture a secret. After each performance, have students guess what the performing group’s picture may be. Reveal the picture and have the performing group explain how the sounds, rhythms, tempos, and dynamics they chose represented their picture.

If desired, have the groups pick new pictures and repeat the activity.

OPTIONAL

For younger students, keep the class as one large group. Choose one student to pick the picture out of a bag. Have students decide as a class what sounds, rhythms, tempos, and dynamics they would like to use to represent the picture, and perform the “sound-scape” together.