



## Virtuoso Variations

VIEUXTEMPS Souvenir d'Amérique, Variations on "Yankee Doodle"

# CLASS ACTIVITY: Yankee Doodle Dandy Definitions

## OVERVIEW

Today's activity increases music fluency through vocabulary terms, and music literacy through visual examples within the video. It is most appropriate for older children with more exposure to music - 4th and 5th grade students would benefit the most from this activity.

## HOW TO PLAY

Start by introducing students to the following music terms, all of which are heard in the video:

**Theme and Variations** – A piece of music that introduces a theme, and then repeats that theme again and again in a slightly different way each time.

**Virtuoso** – A musician in peak form, who has reached the highest level of musicianship. Capable of playing incredibly challenging music, and expands what we believe is possible on their instrument.

**Trill** – One note held while rapidly playing the note above it as fast possible.

**Chords** – three or more notes played at the same time; the building blocks of music and harmony.

**Sforzando** – A note played with a sudden emphasis or attack.

**Scale** – A series of eight notes that goes through the music alphabet in order. Ex. C D E F G A B C

**Harmonics** – A very high pitched whistle tone; violinists play these by holding down one finger while lightly touching the string with another finger.

Once the students understand the terms, play the video. During the performance, each occurrence of the theme will use one of the terms. Pause after each timestamp below, and ask the class to guess what technique Charles is using to vary the theme.



## Virtuoso Variations

VIEUXTEMPS Souvenir d'Amérique, Variations on "Yankee Doodle"

**Trill** – 4:31

**Chords** – 5:28

**Sforzando** – 6:10

**Scales** – 6:32

**Harmonics** – 6:55

After the video, ask students if they think Charles and Peter are virtuosic. We certainly think so!

Bonus:

To reinforce the new music terms, print and hand out the word search/matching worksheet. For younger students (1st and 2nd grade), use only the word search portion.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## Virtuoso Variations

VIEXTEMPS Souvenir d'Amérique, Variations on "Yankee Doodle"



### DANDY DEFINITIONS

Write the letter of the correct definition next to each term.

1. **Sforzando** \_\_\_\_\_

**A.** A series of 8 notes that goes through the music alphabet in order.

2. **Theme and Variations** \_\_\_\_\_

**B.** A note played with a sudden emphasis or attack

3. **Scale** \_\_\_\_\_

**C.** One note held while rapidly playing the note above it as fast as possible

4. **Trill** \_\_\_\_\_

**D.** A very accomplished musician capable of playing incredibly difficult music

5. **Harmonics** \_\_\_\_\_

**E.** A very high pitched whistle tone played on a string instrument by pressing down one note while lightly touching another note

6. **Virtuoso** \_\_\_\_\_

**F.** A piece of music that introduces a theme, and then repeats the theme again and again in a slightly different way each time.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## Virtuoso Variations

VIEUXTEMPS Souvenir d'Amérique, Variations on "Yankee Doodle"



### DANDY DEFINITIONS

L V H T E H C W Z D  
 I A O H L S V E S H  
 T R R E E C I R F A  
 R I E M K H R O O R  
 I A S E I O T S R M  
 L T C M R R U V Z O  
 L I A X K D O W A N  
 U O L T Z S S K N I  
 U N E G Z B O Y D C  
 T S S K G P L R O S

variations

sforzando

virtuoso

chords

scales

trill

harmonics

theme