

WESTERN MUSIC

Teacher's Guide: GRADE 9 - Lesson 9

Construction of a percussion instrument

Competency: Competence in singing and instrument playing

Element: Identify different types of sounds and describe their characteristics.

Performance criteria:

Use musical instruments to experiment with sound.

Purpose of Activity

This activity aims to foster students' creativity through the construction of a **ravanne**, **maravanne**, or **triangle** using everyday materials. It also encourages the exploration of traditional craftsmanship and sound production.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this lesson, students should be able to:

- Identify the materials used in the manufacture of the ravanne, maravanne and triangle.
- Understand the construction process of these instruments.
- Identify alternative materials from daily life that can be used to construct similar instruments.
- Construct a simple DIY musical instrument that produces sound when played.

Introduction

Musical instruments used in traditional music are usually built up from items found in the environment for example: animal skin, bones, shells, pieces of wood, plants etc... These instruments are typically handmade and are deeply connected to the cultural heritage and traditions of the communities that use them.

Activity 1 Watch and Explore

Use the videos below to observe how traditional Mauritian instruments are made:



Manufacture of the Ravanne by José Legris

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fq6qCD9Sceg>



La ravanne racontée par Menwar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87I7XpoHzSw>



José Legris - Reportage Instrument Typique Ile Maurice

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIE_NSxl4P4&t=113s

(Use the above videos for reference)

Activity 2 Class Discussion

- What materials were used in the making of the **ravanne, maravanne, triangle**?
- What items from our daily environment (e.g. recycled or household objects) can be used as substitutes to make a similar instrument?

Activity 3 Create a DIY traditional musical instrument

- Using recyclable or found materials, each student or group will create a **ravanne, maravanne, or triangle**.
- The instrument should be **able to produce a clear sound** when played (e.g., hit or shaken).
- Encourage creativity and experimentation with different materials to explore sound characteristics.

Resources and Materials

Audio/visual equipment, any materials needed that can be used to create a DIY ravanne, maravanne or triangle.

Teaching Trajectories/Implementation guidelines**Activity 1 Learn About Traditional Instrument-Making**

- Guide students to watch the selected videos demonstrating how traditional Mauritian instruments (ravanne, maravanne, triangle) are handcrafted.
- Discuss the materials used and the cultural significance of the instruments.

Activity 2 Class Discussion on Materials

- Engage students in a group discussion about the types of materials traditionally used to make these instruments.
- Prompt them to compare traditional materials with everyday items they can find at home or in class.

Activity 3 Create DIY Mauritian Traditional Instruments

- Guide students step-by-step through the process of designing and constructing their own instrument using recyclable or accessible materials.

Assessment

Oral questions

- What is the ravanne/maravanne/triangle made of?
- How does the instrument produce sound?
- What alternative materials can you use to make a similar sound?

Project Assessment (DIY Instrument)