

CITIZENSHIP

Teacher's Guide: GRADE 8 - Lesson 7

Making a musical instrument - Guitar

Competency, Element and Performance Criteria

- **Element 4:** Solve problems with empathy and integrity to address personal, societal and environmental issues.
- **Performance Criteria Level 2:**
 - Design and implement simple projects addressing environmental concerns with consideration of community impact.
- **Element 5:** Communicate respectfully and sensitively across diverse situations to make meaningful connections.
- **Performance Criteria Level 1:**
 - Use appropriate greetings and basic courteous language when interacting with others.
 - Listen attentively and respond to simple questions.
- **Performance Criteria Level 2:**
 - Recognise the importance of respectful communication on building trust in diverse settings.

Purpose of activity

Students will learn about sound vibrations or music by constructing a simple string instrument using everyday materials. Students will make use scrap materials to express their creativity.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Understand basic principles of sound and vibration.
- Explore how pitch is affected by string tension and thickness.
- Develop creativity and fine motor skills

Resources and Materials

- 1 empty tissue box or small cardboard box
- 4–6 rubber bands (various thicknesses)
- 1 or more paper towel tube(s) or similar cardboard tube
- Tape or glue
- Scissors or craft knife (adult supervision required)
- Optional: markers, stickers, or paint for decoration



Teaching trajectories/ Implementation guidelines

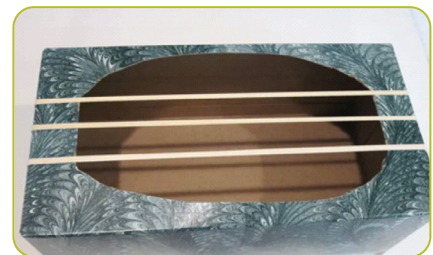
It is recommended to provide students enough time for discussion and sharing. This activity may be extended over 2 or more periods.

Step 1: Introduction (Questioning)

- Why is music important?
- What effect music has on people? (Think of your own experience, e.g. the calming/entertainment effect of music.
- Briefly explain how string instruments work (vibrations create sound).

Step 2: Build the Guitar Prepare the Box:

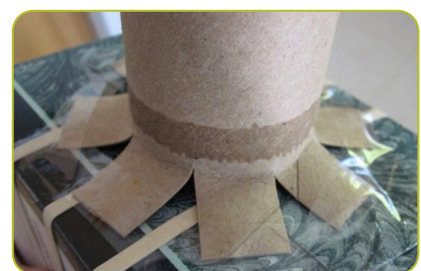
- Cut a hole in the center of the box top if it doesn't already have one (like a tissue box).



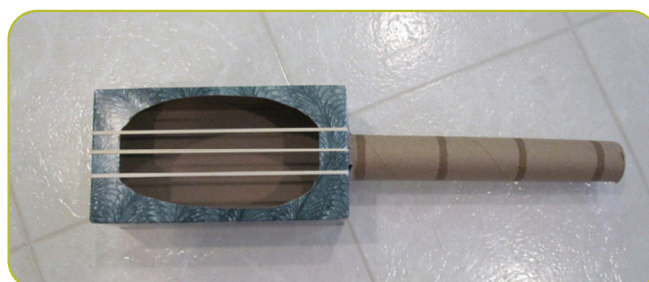
- Add the Rubber Bands:
 - Stretch 4 to 6 rubber bands around the box over the hole. Use different thicknesses and tensions.
 - Students can arrange the rubber bands in order from the thinnest to thickest
 - Students can also vary the tensions of each rubber band by tying a knot and reducing its length before stretching them around the box.



- Attach the Neck:
 - Cut the paper towel tube about 8 time around. It should look like in the picture.
 - Tape or glue the paper towel tube to one end of the box to resemble a guitar neck.



- Decorate: Let students personalise their instruments with art supplies.



Step 3: Experiment and Play

- Pluck each rubber band and listen to the sound.
- Try changing the tension of the rubber band or change the thickness of the rubber band affects the sound.
- Try playing simple rhythms or melodies.

Step 4: Wrap-Up Discussion

- What did you notice about the sounds?
- How does this relate to real guitars or other string instruments?
- What would you change to improve your instrument?

Assessment

- Creativity of the students in building and decorating their guitar.
- Participation and response of students in questioning (Step 1) and discussion (Step 4).