

Newspapers

This activity is based on a song from the Chinese primary curriculum. The students have had very little experience in working together in groups and they found it quite challenging to work collaboratively to create the piece.

Objectives:

- To create a performance piece based on the Chinese song about the rain.
- To work with a found sound (newspapers).
- To work with others to compose melodic accompaniment, a dance, an arhythmic 'rain storm' and a visual notation of the melody.
- To integrate voice, movement and instruments.
- To integrate recorder with tuned percussion instruments.



Activity:

- Everyone has a sheet of newspaper.
- Pretend to read newspaper, look at the sky, use the paper as an umbrella.
- Read again and flick on the first beat of each phrase, tapping foot for each beat while singing the song.
- Create different sounds from the newspaper for each phrase and accompany the song.
- Do the above but without singing the song – perform in canon.
- Tell the story of children going to school and it starts raining.
- Create a performance piece based on the above.
 - o Start with rain and thunderstorm then the rain stops.
 - o They find puddles and obviously want to play in them.
 - o They hear the school bell and realise they'd better rush to school.
- Split into 4 groups.
 - o One group create the sound of rain and a thunderstorm using their newspaper.
 - o One group use their newspaper to make puddles and create a movement piece reflecting playing in the puddles.
 - o One group create a visual notation of the melody using the newspaper (be as creative as you wish) and they will sing the song.
 - o One group determines various melodic ostinati accompaniments on the tuned percussion instruments and accompaniment on untuned percussion instruments, and plays the song.
- Perform with the storm, the song and movement and finally the instrumental playing. (With more time they could have been more creative, and included movement, vocal and instrumental improvisations.)

