



Charles Pettee's "Digging the Roots of Bluegrass music" Residencies: Four Day Residency lesson plan (2nd grade)

Day One: (Focus Instrument = the Guitar)

- 1) Listening & singing: a) Fiddle tunes on the guitar; b) A folk song: "The Accident Song"; c) A Bluegrass song: "The New River Train" (2.ml.1)
- 2) Learning: Musical terms "Tempo", "Pitch" and "Vibration" (2.P.1; 2.ml.3)
- 3) Experiencing: A primitive musical instrument, the bow!
- 4) Applying: The guitar (from Spain) (2.cp.1) a) The neck, the sound chamber, the 6 strings; b) play "Malaguenia"
- 5) Sing/clap along: "Cluck old Hen"

Day Two: (Focus Instrument = the Banjo)

- 1) Listening & singing: a) "Deep River Blues" (snap fingers with guitar beat); b) Folk Song = "Lollipop Tree"; c) Bluegrass song = "Long Journey Home"
- 2) Learning/Assessment: Review "tempo, pitch and vibration" and the parts of the guitar
- 3) Experiencing: Meet the banjo (from West Africa)... Find the neck, sound chamber, 5 strings
- 4) Applying: Banjo tunes, e.g., "Cripple Creek", "Soldier's Joy", "Shoo Fly Swing"
- 5) Sing/clap along: a) Blues song = "Feets Too Big"; b) "This Little Light of Mine"

Day Three: (Focus Instrument = the Mandolin)

- 1) Listening & Singing: a) Folk song = "Follow the Drinking Gourd"; b) Three hundred year old folk song = "Yankee Doodle" c) From the Civil War: "Goober Peas"; d) Class request song
- 2) Review/Assessment: How many strings & where from: guitar? Banjo?
- 3) Experiencing: Meet the mandolin (from Italy)... find the neck, sound chamber, 8 strings
- 4) Applying: a) Classical mando piece = "Wellenspiel" (Schubert); b) Irish jigs; c) Bill Monroe's blues style mandolin "Tennessee Blues".
- 5) Sing/clap along: a) "Mole in the Ground"; b) "New River Train" (make up own rhymes)

Day Four: (Focus Instrument = the Harmonica)

- 1) Listening & Singing: a) A bluegrass song that I wrote: "Across the morning Sky"; b) Sing along with "Ain't No Bugs on Me!"
- 2) Review/assessment: Number of strings and country of origin for Guitar, Banjo and Mandolin
- 3) Experiencing: Vibration and the "double reed" – Making wind instrument from two pieces of paper
- 4) Applying: Meet the Harmonica (from Germany) a) How it works; b) O Suzanna (Southern folk song); c) Blues harmonica = "Big Railroad Blues", "Cluck Old Hen"; d) Call-response song = "Chicken Train"
- 5) Sing/Clap along – request song(s)