



THE VIOLIN/FIDDLE

Lesson ideas

Broad learning outcomes

Using this curriculum material will assist students in achieving the following broad learning outcomes:

- Students will learn about the parts of a violin/fiddle.
- Students will explore the string instrument family, with an emphasis on the violin/fiddle.

English

- Students to write an explanation, with labelled diagrams, explaining how a violin/fiddle works.
- Students to attend an orchestral/musical performance and write a review of it for the school newsletter.
- Students to research a famous violinist and create a webpage (or social media page – depending on the age of your students) for him/her.
- Students to formulate some interview questions for a famous violinist of their choice, then research the possible answers.
- Students to complete the **'String instruments KWL chart'** activity sheet.

Mathematics

- Students to research the link between the mathematician Pythagoras and the violin.
- Students to investigate which shapes are used in the construction of stringed instruments and discuss why they think this is the case.

Science

- Students to explore the science behind stringed instruments. How are the various sounds produced? Create a diagram/poster to explain this to others.



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Humanities and Social Sciences

- Students to research the various musical periods and discover which composers, musical styles or musicians were prominent or influential in each period.
- Students to explore the history of the violin/fiddle and create a timeline of relevant key events.
- Students to investigate the history of folk or classical music. How did each type of music contribute to various cultures and time periods?

The Arts

- As a class, students to brainstorm as many musical instruments as they can think of. Ideas to be displayed on a wall chart in the classroom.
- Students to complete the **'Parts of a violin/fiddle'** activity sheet.
- Students to bring in and listen to examples of popular music which feature the violin/fiddle.
- Students to complete the **'Name that music symbol'** activity sheet.
- Students to research, describe and draw four instruments from the string family. They can record their information on the **'Family of strings'** activity sheet
- Students to research musical instrument families (other than the string family), then find or draw pictures of the instruments and present them on an instrument family collage.
- Invite a student who plays the violin to play his/her favourite tune to the class.
- Students to compare and contrast two different string instruments, looking at their design, sound, the way they are played etc. Students to show these similarities and differences on the **'String instrument Venn diagram'** activity sheet.
- Students to use a search engine to find sound clips or information about artists who play folk or classical music.
- Students with prior musical knowledge to write out a favourite melody on a staff. There is a **'Music template'** provided with the activity sheets.
- Students to choreograph and perform a dance to a piece of violin music.



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- Students to investigate unique musical instruments from around the world and describe the cultures and musical styles associated with them.

Technology

- Students to use the 3D violin animation (available in the 'Themed Curriculum Support' section of the FTfs website) to learn about the various parts of a violin.
- Students to design and make their own violin/fiddle using materials from school and home.
- Students to design a case that could transport a violin safely and securely. What types of materials would be suitable?

Languages

- Students to research and list the types and names of string instruments played in various countries around the world.