

Young Audiences of Massachusetts Educational Materials

About the Performance

Voci Angelica Trio presents an interactive educational program, "Passages", for elementary and middle school children. Students learn about geography, the early history of human emigration, and the diverse cultures, languages and music of six continents. Voci Angelica performs its own arrangements of world folk music re-imagined for two voices, cello and percussion. Audiences become part of the experience: answering questions in a quiz-show format, creating body percussion to rhythmically infectious songs, and learning ancient dances.

Instruments: Cello, Djembe, Claves, Cuatro, Maracas, Shell Shaker, Tambourine Stick, Finger Cymbals, Doumbek

LEARNING GOALS:

1. to reinforce geography studies through music
2. to show the history of early human migration
3. to promote cultural understanding through the music and languages of every continent inhabited by humans

PRE-ACTIVITY SUMMARY: K-5 through 2nd

CURRICULUM LINKS: Geography, Social Studies

LEARNING GOAL: to understand what a continent is and be able to identify them by sight

MATERIALS/PREPARATION: map of the world (preferably with continents outlined and no countries shown), coloring pages of the continent outlines (can be found online and printed), crayons/colored pencils

TIME: 60 minutes (for both activities)

ACTIVITY 1

Step 1: Teacher shows a map of the world with only continents (not countries) and explains what a continent is. Teacher names each continent and has them become familiar with the names. Teacher hands out a continent-outline coloring page.

Step 2: Instruct students to color the following:

Africa – green

Asia – yellow

Australia/Oceania – red

Europe – blue

North America – pink

South America – orange

Antarctica - purple

ACTIVITY 2

Step 1: Use the following printables for review of continents:

<http://thewisenest.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Continents-Matching-Cards.pdf>

Step 2:

For Pre-readers – print out two sets of the cards and, using only the picture cards, have students draw out of a hat or box and name the continent in their hand

For Readers – print out enough sets for the class to break into pairs, then have a continent memory tournament to see who remembers them the best

POST-ACTIVITY SUMMARY: Transportation Mobile – Land, Air, Sea

CURRICULUM LINKS: Science, Math, Visual Arts, Social Studies

LEARNING GOAL: to identify different modes of transportation/migration

MATERIALS/PREPARATION: cardboard, drawing paper, crayons/colored pencils, pictures of transportation modes, nylon fishing line, construction paper scraps, paper punch, plastic hangers or dowels

TIME: 60 minutes

Step 1: Brainstorm modes of transportation (horse, flying carpet, elephant, bicycle, camel, car, train, airplane, etc.)

Step 2: Have students pick one mode to draw, color, cut out, and glue to a piece of thin cardboard.

Step 3: Generate a list of symbols that represent land (roads, grass, flowers), air (birds, sun, star, wind), and water (fish, whales, seaweed) and have students draw one in each category and glue to a piece of cardboard.

Step 4:

Paper punch a hole in the top of each picture and tie the nylon string through the holes. Tie the other end of the nylon string onto the plastic hangers or dowels. Display in the classroom

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS:

Re-imagining the boundaries of traditional folk music, Voci Angelica Trio's riveting arrangements of global songs from every continent leave audiences mesmerized.

Shimmering vocal harmonies intertwine with lush cello lines and vibrant percussion to create a musical fusion that transcends cultural divisions.

What started as a side project building on its members' diverse ethnic backgrounds has become a musical mission. More than just a performance group, Voci Angelica Trio is a humanitarian force promoting social justice and cultural understanding. "We believe that one of the best ways to pursue peace is to sing one another's songs," says trio member Jodi Hitzhusen. Meena Malik adds, "We see ourselves as musical ambassadors, using our performances to raise public awareness of diverse cultures and the issues they face."

The name "Voci Angelica" is Latin for "voices of angels." Latin is a root language from which many others grew, just as the Trio believes that every culture is rooted in common desires. Aristides Rivas concludes, "Music goes beyond language, religion, and politics. It connects us to our humanity."