

Study Guide For Teachers

The Junk Jam Band In *The Amazing Junk Jam Band*

(A show about “cool” garbage, found sound and taking care of our planet)

Presented by
Young Audiences
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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Amazing Junk Jam assembly is a high energy, interactive, and educational performance. The program features performers using found objects and homemade instruments to deliver messages of environmental awareness and social responsibility. Using recycled instruments, these dedicated artists/musicians also recycle sound itself with “looping” technology that allows the students to create songs during the program by layering sounds, one over the other. Learning that found objects can be used in so many different ways has never been such fun.

LEARNING GOALS

The BIG green idea: Found Sound!

You can make the most amazing instruments and music out of “cool” garbage. Just take a look around and see what you can find.

Essential Question: How can we use art and creativity to change perceptions about sustainable living?

Students will:

- See and hear unique musical instruments made from “RFO” recycled found objects
- See professional musicians demonstrating musical techniques
- Play the RFO instruments on stage with the musicians
- Understand that found objects and “cool” garbage can be repurposed as instruments
- Hear songs about making responsible choices and recycling

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

People from around the world make music in amazing and diverse ways!

Some instruments are crafted from dried gourds, bones, bamboo or from wood. There are also instruments that use repurposed items – such as the cajón or box drum from Peru. African slaves would make these instruments from old packing crates and use them to replace the native drums of Africa. Also in Cuba, cajon drums were made from old drawers and other household box type structures and used to accompany Cuban and Latino Styles of music. In the 1800's, a clever Appalachian carpenter used a fiddle bow to play his saw, which he had placed between his knees. This “Musical Saw” is still popular today.

BEFORE THE PROGRAM

Encourage students to consider their everyday environment as a source of interesting sounds.

1. Ask students what objects in the classroom might make a good sound? Students can work in detective pairs to investigate and make a short list of classroom objects that can make an interesting sound
2. Discuss how other cultures use readily available materials from nature to make instruments and play music
3. As a class, discuss the difference between recycle and repurpose (see definitions below). Ask students if they've ever made something from "garbage". Select several common school garbage items and brainstorm on how they can be "repurposed" into different useable items.

AFTER THE PROGRAM

Create a found sound orchestra! Using objects found in the classroom or school recycling bins, or from home (egg beaters, wooden and plastic spoons, cans filled with popcorn seeds, silverware, Tupperware, clipboards, and pencils). In small teams, have students create rhythms and phrases. Share out in teams or combine to create one large found sound orchestra!

Make a drum! Take an empty tomato sauce can or large can and tightly stretch thin packing tape across the open end by putting x's on top of x's until the entire surface is covered. Put a strip of tape around the edge to secure the top. Use chop sticks or small dowels as drum sticks. Decorate your new drum with colored duct tape!

VOCABULARY WORDS

Percussion: musical instruments played by striking with the hand or with a handheld or pedal-operated stick or beater, or by shaking, including drums, cymbals, xylophones, gongs, bells, and rattles.

Found Sound: anything other than traditional musical instruments that makes a sound.

Loop: to connect segments of music by using an electronic looping devise that repeats the sounds recorded on it

Recycle: convert (waste) into reusable material.

Repurpose: to reuse something for a different purpose from the one that was originally intended

Sustainability: the ability to continue

RESOURCES

Rhythm Web

www.rhythmweb.com/homemade/

STOMP

www.stomponline.com

Landfillharmonic

<http://www.landfillharmonicmovie.com/>

Alliant Energy Kids- Cool Projects

www.alliantenergykids.com/FunandGames/CoolProjects/index.htm

Kids Ahead

www.kidsahead.com

History of Recycling

<http://www.greenecoservices.com/history-of-recycling/>

ARTIST INFORMATION

The Amazing Junk Jam is a high energy, interactive, and educational performance featuring artists (musicians) Zach Green, Josh Robinson, and Alex Shaw. **Josh Robinson** is a native of Woodstock NY who has been working as a Percussionist and teaching artist for the past 11 years. He is currently a member of "Alo Brasil", a popular Philadelphia based Brazilian band, "Spoken Hand percussion orchestra", a group that fuses Cuban, Brazilian, African, and Indian drumming traditions, and "Rhythms & Roots" Latin ensemble, a group that he co-founded in 2000. **Alex Shaw** is a percussionist, vocalist, composer, and arts educator specializing in Brazilian music traditions. He holds a B.A. from Swarthmore College (2000) and is a member of Philadelphia's award-winning Spoken Hand Percussion Orchestra and Director of the renowned Brazilian ensemble, Alô Brasil. **Zachary Green** has been working as a teaching artist in the New York/New Jersey area since 2001, and has been on the roster of Young Audiences since 2008 as a visual artist.