

Teaching notes on MC: Music in the Ancient World

Slide 1

Learning objective: To discover how music was made in the Ancient World and to make a replica syrinx.

Slide 2



A game of Word Roots Challenge looking at music-related words that have their roots in Latin or Ancient Greek.

On mouse-click, an English derivative (and its definition) of one of these Latin words will appear on the screen. Pupils have to work out from which one the English word is derived. On second mouse-click, the English word will make its way to its root word.

Slides 3

The Romans and Greeks didn't have iPhones or Spotify, but music still played an important part of life. Music was a part of events such as theatre performances, religious occasions, army communications (e.g., sounding of the horn in a certain pattern) and private parties. This is illustrated here by artefacts from the ancient world still in museums today.

Slides 4-8

...look at some of the instruments used in the ancient world. Prompt questions can get the students thinking about how the instruments work, what they sound like and what the modern equivalent is (answers are revealed on mouse-click, including audio files).

Slide 9

All instruments that create music through different notes (i.e., change pitch) do so in the same fundamental way – by altering the length of the sound wave produced by the instrument. This slide illustrates how this works in three ancient instruments – the lyre, the *aulos* and the *syrinx*.

Slide 10



The activity for this lesson is to make a *syrinx* and see how 'pipe' length affects the pitch of the note produced. Step-by-step instructions appear on mouse-click and there is also a printable worksheet for the students.

Slide 12

The plenary slide:

Question 1 Can you name an occasion on which you might hear music in the ancient world?
[parties, religious occasions, battle, army processions, theatre, shows]

Question 2 What creates a high note, a long sound wave or a short sound wave? [short]

Question 3 What is this instrument called? [*syrinx* or pan pipes]