

A Brief History of the Organ

In STEAM the “A” represents the Arts. In education that A is not only music, theater and visual arts, it is also language arts and history. In the first video segment, we follow the invention of the organ from ancient Greece to Rome, through medieval times in Europe to colonial America and into its uses in modern times. This is a wonderful example of man’s progress in history. We watch the organ, a complicated machine from day one, progress from water power to air power to mechanical to electric, and now run by computers and fiber optics. The progress of the organ represents the progress of man through history.

Reading maps, noting the important people in history that cross paths with the organ like Nero, Bach, Paul Revere, and local organist Matthew Kaminsky (Braves organist) is a great way to integrate music with history and connect with the here and now.

Contents

SUMMARY.....	1
LEARNING OBJECTIVES	1
RESOURCES	2
STANDARDS.....	2
INSTRUCTION	3

SUMMARY

This lesson introduces students to the concept of how the organ progressed through history with civilized man. Students develop an understanding of how the past leads to the contemporary by mapping the progress and improvements of the organ and how they coincide with western civilization. *The King of Instruments Part 1* will serve as the foundation for the lesson and activities.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Learn about the history of the pipe organ.
- Become familiar with the timeline of western civilization from Greece to modern times

Teaching Approach	Teaching Methods	Assessment Type
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project-Based Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperative Learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts Integration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multimedia Instruction 	

RESOURCES

- History of the Organ Time Line Activity and Key
- King of Instruments Part I

Required Technology

- Computer and screen or Smartboard

STANDARDS

National Standards

- Grades K-4 History Standard 3: Understands the people, events, problems, and ideas that were significant in creating the history of their country

Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE)

- Utilizes Information Processing Skills
- The student will be able to locate, analyze, and synthesize information related to social studies topics
 - compare similarities and differences
 - organize items chronologically
 - identify main idea, detail, sequence of events, and cause and effect in a social studies context
 - interpret timelines
 - draw conclusions and make generalizations
 - translate dates into centuries, eras, or ages

INSTRUCTION

ENGAGE

1. **Ask the class when the pipe organ was invented** Record their ideas on the board.
2. **Share *The King of Instruments Part 1* with the class.** Compare and contrasts their ideas about the invention of the pipe organ with information in the video.

BUILD KNOWLEDGE

1. **Explain to students that the pipe organ was one of the most complex machines invented in ancient times and that its progress followed that of western civilization from ancient times to modern times.**
2. **Have students work in small groups to work on *History of the Organ* timeline activity.**
3. **Have each group share their chronology with the class and explain why they think it is in the proper order**

REFLECT

1. **Share the Answers from the Teacher Key for the *History of the Organ* timeline activity. Discuss famous historic figures who may have interacted or experienced a pipe organ.** (*ex: Julius Caesar, King George, Paul Revere, Francis Scott Key, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt, Jackie Robinson, etc.*)