

Mini-Lesson #1: We Are Going to the Symphony! What is a Symphony?

Overview of Outcomes

1. Students will share their previous knowledge of what they know about the symphony.
2. Students will be introduced to classic symphony culture.

Materials

1. Appendix A - Sequential Alphabet Roundtable
2. Video of Beethoven Symphony (see link below)

Activity Directions

1. Place students in small groups (ideally 4) and hand out Activating Prior Knowledge Handout (see Appendix A) called, *Sequential Alphabet Roundtable*.
2. To activate students knowledge, “What do you know about the Symphony?”
3. Have students individually write or draw images that start with any letter of the alphabet as they can connect to their knowledge of the **symphony**. For guidance, you may provide them a free word example, such as “M” – *Music*, or “V” – *Violin*, etc...Note: Please accept any appropriate response as this strategy is meant to activate students prior knowledge. For example, someone may write grandma under “G” because his or her grandma went to a symphony.
4. Provide students 5 minutes of quiet time to fill out their A-B-C chart individually.
5. Teacher circulates the room to see all the words and terms students already know as it connects to the symphony.
6. After time is called, ask students “How many letters did you fill out?”
7. Have student share their A-B-C knowledge with their small group members and then to the whole class. Ask students if they learned some new terms from one another?
8. Next, have the students pretend they are going to the symphony. Ask how will they behave? What might they wear? Discuss how they might feel if they like the music? Or what if they do not like the music?
9. Next, introduce one of the most popular works of Beethoven. Ask students, “Did anyone write, Beethoven for the letter “B”?” If not, have them write in on their ABC chart.
10. Next, play about 2:00 minutes of the video Beethoven 9 - Chicago Symphony Orchestra by Riccardo Muti. Explain that they will be viewing the classic and popular symphony of Beethoven. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rOjHhS5MtvA>
11. Ask the students to notice what they SEE and HEAR and how the audience ACTS/BEHAVES.
12. After they listen to the video – have students *Turn and Talk* to *Neighbor*. What did you notice by watching this video? How is this the same or different than what you expected from a symphony?
13. Next, if you have time, please share this video: <https://study.com/academy/lesson/the-symphony-history-parts-and-function-in-society.html>
14. In the final step, have the students go to back to their A-B-C chart and write some *new* words on their chart that they learned or experienced from the videos or class discussion.

Appendix A

Sequential Alphabet Roundtable

Directions: Write a word or draw a picture (you can write more than one word per letter) for as many of the letters of the alphabet you know about the **Symphony**. Any word that relates to what you know, think, experienced or felt about a symphony counts.

A	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y
Z	Notes:			