

Little Melba and Her Big Trombone

RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

STEAM-THEMED: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH

SCIENCE

A SPOONFUL OF SOUND

Materials: wooden ruler, 4 feet of yarn, 1 large and 1 small metal spoon

Introduce the concept of soundwaves. Sound creates vibrations in the air, which travel in waves until they reach our ears. Let students try this simple experiment. Tie the yarn around the handle of the large spoon; the spoon should be tied so it's in the middle of the yarn. Have a student hold the ends of the yarn so the spoon dangles in front of them. The student should gently press the yarn against the outsides (not insides!) of their ears. Tap the bowl of the spoon with the ruler. Repeat the process with the small spoon. What do students hear? Does each spoon sound the same? How does each spoon sound when struck without the yarn to act as a *conductor*?



TECHNOLOGY, ART MUSIC MAKER

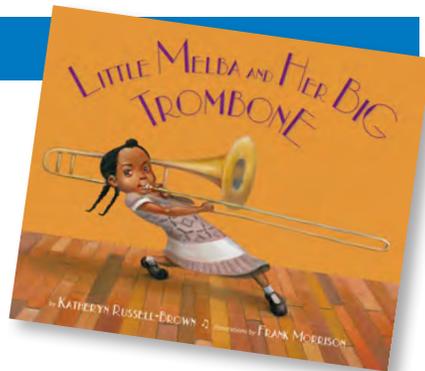
Visit <http://fun2think.com/free-online-music-making-for-kids> for links to sites where you can make music online for free. Alone or with a partner or small group, use these websites to make a tune. Then, write words to go with your tune. Your song should be based on one of the themes you saw in this book, like creativity, hard work, or facing challenges. If you're feeling brave, perform your song for the class!

ENGINEERING, ART INSTRUMENTAL

Materials: scrap materials (paper plates, popsicle sticks, plastic bottles, cardboard tubes, tissue boxes, rubber bands, paper clips, etc.), glue, tape, paper, markers

Divide students into small groups. Let each group design its own musical instrument. Groups should sketch their designs, then use scrap materials to build the instrument. Every instrument should actually make noise—have students test their

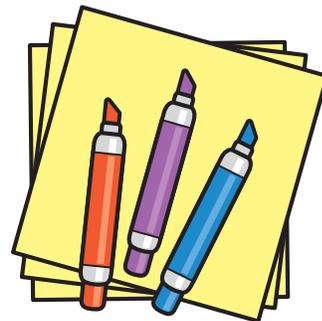
instruments out by playing simple tunes. When every group is finished, play the instruments all together and see what kind of beautiful music you can make!



ART POST IT

Materials: construction paper, markers or crayons

Who's your favorite musician or band? Have you ever seen them perform live? Imagine they're playing a show in your town! Make a poster to advertise the performance like the ones in the book. Include the name of your town, a date, and the artist or band's name. Be sure your poster is colorful and bright so people will notice it! Add pictures of the artist or band. You can draw the pictures yourself, print them from online, or cut them out of a magazine or newspaper. Hang your posters around the classroom!



MATH, ART MUSICAL MATH

For younger students:

Have students practice making musical patterns using instruments in the classroom or this online game: <http://pbskids.org/cyberchase/math-games/cyber-pattern-player>.

For older students: Introduce students to these musical notes: whole note, half note, quarter note, eighth note, and sixteenth note. Have students write fraction math problems using the notes instead of numbers. Students should write and solve at least 5 problems.

