

Boerne Performing Arts Lesson Plan – Drum TAO

Target Grade – 3rd Grade

Objective: Third grade students will prepare to attend “Drum TAO” performance. Students will learn the history of Taiko drumming. Students will use classroom drums to create rhythmic phrases through improvisation and composition.

TEKS Addressed:

Foundation: Grd. 43 Creative Expression 3.7; Grd. 3 Critical Evaluation and Response 3.1, 3.5, 3.6

Materials: SMART Board or projector and screen to show clips and information; paper (notepads) and pencils; classroom instruments (drums)

Lesson: Hook: Has anyone been to Japan? (Locate Japan on classroom map or use visual) How long do you think it would take to travel to Japan?



1. Exciting News – Present the Boerne Performing Arts opportunity to see an amazing group all the way from Japan!
More than 9 million spectators have been touched across the world by DRUM TAO’s phenomenal performances consisting of incomparable “Wadako Drums” and the beautiful melody of Japanese flutes and harps. It is “Japanese Entertainment” for a new generation that completely surpasses expectations. This new long-running production of DRUM TAO started in Tokyo in 2017, became widely popular, and continues to amaze and thrill audiences of all ages everywhere. The sheer power and talent of these performers will have you...mesmerized and on the edge of your seat!
2. Discuss audience manners, expectations on and off the bus, expectations as enter and exit BCHS, expectations of dealing with BPA members and other teachers.
3. Watch promo video of Drum TAO: [VIDEO](#)
4. Present background of Drum TAO (from <https://drum-tao.com/en/index.php/about/>)

DRUM TAO

Established in 1993, with a dream of creating the best show in the world using Taiko drums (Japanese drums), the instrument which has a very rare and unique variety of sound expressions.

DRUM TAO set their base at Oita, Japan and started creating their own music, stage set-ups, and costumes to produce their one and only world of entertainment. Many talented artists and staffs gathered to join this creation from all over the world and this is why DRUM TAO can make the peerless and the most modern “JAPANESE ENTERTAINMENT.”

5. Present 8-10 known rhythmic patterns for students to clap in whole group.
6. Divide students into smaller, equal groups. Ask students to choose 2-4 rhythmic phrases to create a group pattern. Students will copy and arrange chosen patterns as a group.
7. Students should choose classroom drums to bring into drum circle. After a short practice time, each group will play the pattern separately for the class.
8. Once groups have established patterns, groups will layer patterns in canon form or as ostinato patterns.
9. Decide – revisions needed as a class? Where? When? Play class composition with revisions.
10. Celebrate creating music as a class with drumming.

Conclusion: Prepare students to bring back answers to the following questions:

1. How did Drum TAO make “drumming” come alive in the BPA student performance?
2. What was your favorite portion of the performance?
3. Would you recommend this performance to others? Why? Why not?