

THE INCORPORATION OF INDIGENOUS INSTRUMENTS IN ARTS CLASSES

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The incorporation of indigenous instruments in music classes is crucial for a number of reasons.

Indigenous instruments are an important part of any country's cultural heritage. They represent the unique sound and rhythm of the region and reflect the country's history, traditions, and values. In many countries, indigenous instruments are used in traditional music and dance performances, and they are an essential part of cultural celebrations and festivals. These instruments are often made from natural materials found in the region, such as bamboo, wood, or animal hide, and their design and construction are passed down from generation to generation.

In many countries, there is a growing recognition of the importance of preserving and promoting indigenous instruments. Governments and cultural organizations are investing in research and development to revive and popularize traditional music and dance forms. This not only helps preserve the cultural heritage of the country but also creates new opportunities for musicians, artists, and performers. Indigenous instruments also have a unique sound and tonality that adds to the diversity and richness of the country's music scene. By promoting and celebrating indigenous instruments, we can help preserve our cultural heritage and promote cultural diversity and understanding.

Firstly, it helps to preserve the cultural heritage of indigenous communities. By including traditional instruments in music classes, students are able to learn about the history and cultural significance of these instruments, as well as the communities from which they originate. This is particularly important given the history of colonialism and cultural erasure that many indigenous communities have experienced. By incorporating indigenous instruments into music education, we can work towards rectifying this historical injustice.

Secondly, the use of indigenous instruments in music classes can help to diversify the music curriculum. Many music classes focus primarily on Western classical music and popular music genres, such as rock and pop. However, there is a wealth of music from other cultures that is often overlooked. By including indigenous instruments in music classes, students are

exposed to new sounds and musical traditions, which can broaden their musical horizons and lead to a more inclusive and diverse music curriculum.

Thirdly, learning to play indigenous instruments can be a powerful tool for building community and fostering intercultural understanding. Music has the ability to bring people together, and by playing indigenous instruments, students can connect with the communities from which they originate. This can help to break down stereotypes and promote intercultural dialogue and understanding.

Finally, incorporating indigenous instruments into music classes can be a way to promote environmental sustainability. Many indigenous instruments are made from natural materials, such as wood and animal hides. By teaching students about the traditional methods of instrument-making and the importance of sustainable harvesting practices, we can encourage a greater appreciation for the environment and promote sustainable living practices.

In conclusion, the incorporation of indigenous instruments in music classes is of great importance. It helps to preserve cultural heritage, diversify the music curriculum, build community, and promote environmental sustainability. As music educators, it is our responsibility to ensure that our students have access to a wide range of musical traditions and instruments, and that we work towards a more inclusive and diverse music curriculum.