

Music & Science

The Pasadena Symphony

The Firebird

Time: 1 hour

Grade Kindergarten

Open Court Theme Finding Friends

California VAPA Content Standards

Music

Creative Expression 2.2 Sing age-appropriate songs from memory.

Historical and Cultural Context 3.4 Use developmentally appropriate movements in responding to music from various genres and styles (rhythm, melody).

Theater

Role and Culture Significance 3.1 Retell or dramatize stories, myths, fables, and fairy tales from various cultures and times.

California Science Content Standards

Life Sciences

2a. Students know how to observe and describe similarities and differences in the appearance and behavior of plants and animals (e.g., seed-bearing plants, birds, fish, insects).

2b. Students know stories sometimes give plants and animals attributes they do not really have.

2c. Students know how to identify major structures of common plants and animals (e.g., stems, leaves, roots, arms, wings, legs).

Investigation and Experimentation

4b. Describe the properties of common objects.

4c. Describe the relative position of objects by using one reference (e.g., above or below).

Earth Sciences

3a. Students know characteristics of mountains, rivers, oceans, valleys, deserts, and local landforms.

Indicators of Achievement

Students will listen to and discuss the story of *The Firebird* by Igor Stravinsky. Students will learn to sing from memory the tune from the Firebird Suite. Students will create a pop-up book that will illustrate their understanding of the Firebird story and be able to create an environment that the magical Firebird could live in that includes references to both natural and imaginary elements.

Materials

Student-collected natural materials (e.g. leaves, twigs, rocks) scissors, glue, markers, paint and feathers; *Firebird Song*, CD and lyric sheet

Suggested reading: *The Firebird* by Jane Yolen Illustrated by Vladimir Vagin

Vocabulary

resources, environment, nature, inhabit, investigations, properties, Firebird, magical, limbs

Preparation/Background

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971) was born in St. Petersburg, which was the capital of Russia at the time. His father was a famous opera singer, so as a child, Igor was able to spend a lot of time at the opera house, where he met all the famous musicians of the day. Igor began taking piano lessons at age 9. When he grew up, he started studying law. One of his fellow law students was the son of composer Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, who agreed to give Stravinsky composition lessons. Law fell by the wayside completely after Stravinsky had such success with *The Firebird*, which he composed for Serge Diaghilev, head of the Russian Ballet.

The Story of the Firebird

In a certain land, in a certain kingdom, a Prince named Ivan found himself lost in a Wizard's garden. Being a great hunter, he caught sight of a Firebird eating golden apples from a magic tree in the garden. Ivan quickly caught her but did not want to destroy such a beautiful creature. The Firebird was grateful to him and offered a magic feather to the prince with a promise that she would help him if he were ever to need it. He accepted it, and she flies off.

Ivan found a Princess who has been captured by the evil Wizard. The Prince becomes enchanted with her but she warns him that nobody can escape the power of the Wizard. In a panic, she scurries back to the Wizard's castle so as not to arouse the Wizard's anger for their tardiness.

The Prince decides to rescue his Princess. Ivan goes to the castle, opens the gates and tries to start the rescue. The Wizard is so angry with the Prince that he begins to cast a spell that would turn Ivan to stone. Suddenly, Ivan remembers his magic feather from the Firebird. No sooner does he wave it above his head than the Wizard's spell is broken by the appearance and the magic of the Firebird. Ivan and the Princess marry and live happily ever after. The story ends with the Firebird leaving with a feeling of hope and joy.

Activity

1. Collect natural resources from a nature walk around the school to create a magical environment with a nest: limbs, grass, leaves, bark or other natural materials. Don't forget that the bird is magical and could live in fire.
2. Have the children create a pop-up book with a scene showing the Firebird and its nest. Emphasize what the bird looks like, including its multi-colored hue. Show its real and magical natural environment and what type of food it would eat. Use the materials collected to complete the decoration.
3. Students learn a famous musical theme from the Firebird Suite through song

Assessment

Evaluate the student's participation in the model-making and lesson discussions. How well was the student able to participate in discussions of the story, including questions such as: How can the Open Court theme of **Finding Friends** be applied to the Firebird

Story? What signs of friendship and love did they notice in the story? Was the student successful in making a model of the nest and constructing the pop-up scene? Does the student show a growing ability to distinguish between natural and imaginary elements in a story?

Directions For a Simple Pop-up

Materials: 2 pieces 9 x 12 construction paper, scissors, glue, paper scraps

1. Fold a piece of 9 x 12 paper in half as if making a greeting card.
2. Near the center of the folded edge, draw two dots about 1" apart.
3. Starting at the dots, make 2 parallel cuts about 1" long from the fold toward the middle.
4. Fold the flap that was made by the cuts back and forth to make a crease.
5. Open the card a little and push the flap to the inside of the card. That will create a little step when you hold the card horizontally and open it.
6. Fold the second piece of 9X12 paper in half to make another card. Glue it to the outside of the first card.
7. Now you are ready to decorate. Glue the most important element of your project to the front of the step. That will be the foreground. Open the card up flat and design and complete the background before you attach the foreground piece.

There are many good books about pop-ups available in bookstores and libraries. One popular one is *How to Make Pop-Ups* by Joan Irvine.

Contact and Field Trip Information

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