



Lesson: Creating your own Chinese Ansai Waist Drum

Artform: Music

Skill Level: Medium

Teaching Artist: Myrna Meeroff

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Introduce the culture of China through its musical instruments.

- Students will explore Chinese culture through its musical instruments.
- Students will create a Chinese Ansai waist drum.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

China, known as the People's Republic of China, is a country located in Asia. It is the third largest country in the world and has the largest population of any country on Earth. It is famous for the Great Wall of China that stretches more than 5000 miles.

Music is very much a part of traditional Chinese culture, both sacred and secular. There are many instruments associated with Chinese culture including the gong, the pipa, an instrument like a lute, the guzheng which is a zither, and the ansai waist drum.

The ansai waist drum is a two headed drum that is played with mallets or sticks. It hangs from a strap that goes around the neck so the drum can play both sides of the drum at once. It is used primarily in the ansai waist drum dance which celebrated victories.

Link to watch Ansai Waist drum dance. Get permission to watch the video and if you cannot read the captions, have an adult read it for you.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGLMuzhbesw>

MATERIALS

- Two plastic cups (preferably red)
- scissors
- Tape (packing tape works best)
- Hole puncher
- String or ribbon
- Markers (optional)
- Mallets (you can use two pencils, preferably unsharpened or two closed pens)

ACTIVITIES

1. Use the hole puncher to make one hole in each cup relatively close to the rim.
2. Cut a piece of string or ribbon about 30 inches long
3. Thread the string through the outside of the hole in one cup and using the same string, thread it through the inside of the second cup and back out again.

4. Line the cups together from open end to open end, making sure the string is pulled tight.
5. Tape the cups together making sure not to cover the holes or the string.
6. Tie the end of the string pieces together to form a necklace.
7. You can decorate your cup with your markers adding the dots at each end.
8. Put the string over your neck and use the mallets to hit the bottoms of the cups.
9. Watch the video and see if you can beat a tune along with them as they celebrate!

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR INCLUDING ALL CHILDREN

- Hole punchers are hard to use so let the adults do it.
- Use hand over hand to assist in tying the string and/or cutting the string.
- Adults may need to thread the string through the holes if motor function is limited.
- Have extra cups available in case of breakage

Sample ansai waist drum



Punch hole in each cup



Tape the cups together



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