

Bluegrass Music Lesson Plan- 45-50 Minutes

*Introduce the band/Quick Summary of Lesson Plan

-We're originally from Alaska, and we're going to teach them about Bluegrass Music, and what it's like having a career in music.

-Play a tune or two to get them acquainted with our music

*What is Bluegrass??

-Bill Monroe, early 1950's

-influenced by early American Roots Music such as Appalachian Old-Timey, Irish, Blues, Jazz, and gospel.

-Why "Bluegrass"-from KY, the bluegrass state.

-People liked the band Bill Monroe and his Bluegrass Boys so much they started copying him, and eventually it became a style of it's own

-Play Bill Monroe Tune- ex. Molly and Tenbrooks

-Play an Old-Timey Tune- ex. Angeline the Baker

*What instruments are we playing? Some personal history about how each band member started playing music

-each person says something, and gives a short example of how to play the instrument

*How do our instruments play together?

-Rhythm Participation: have them tap their feet with the bass, then clap with the mandolin to show Bluegrass's "boom, chuck" rhythm style. Then they try to do both together to show what the guitar does.

*Solos/Instrumentals

-How does Jazz and Blues fit in? Improvisation

-Play an instrumental (ex. Sally Goodin') where we switch off solos and have the kids point their finger at the person who is playing the solo, so they can use their listening skills to hear the solo.

*Vocals/Harmony

-sing a chorus where we build by first singing only the melody, and then the tenor part, and then adding the baritone part to show three-part harmony

*About the band

-Started in 1999 as counselors from a Summer Music Camp in Alaska

-We've made 5 CD's, two on a record label in Nashville, Compass Records

-We've played in most of the States in the US, plus Northern Ireland and Scotland.

-Teamwork-We manage our own band, and each use different skills that you learn in school to help us work together. Accounting (Math), Routing (Geography), Graphic Design of Merchandise and Web (Art), Managing emails and schedule (Organization Skills)

-This is our job, and it's cool that you can get a job doing something that you love to do!

*Songwriting

-We write our own material

-Play a song that we wrote ourselves

*Question and Answer

-we let the kids raise their hands and one at a time ask us questions about us, where we're from, our band, the music business, songwriting, etc...

*One more tune to say Goodbye!