

MUSIC in the Life of Thomas Jefferson
Jefferson's serious hobby

LESSON PLAN(s) (2)

GRADE LEVEL(S): Elementary (4-5), Middle School (6-8)

CONTENT CATEGORY: General Music, Orchestra

DESCRIPTION: These lessons are designed to provide students the opportunity to discuss and write about music in our current lives, comparing its role to music in the lives of 18th century children, specifically in the lives of Thomas Jefferson and his daughters. The lessons should be used as follow-up to the streaming video entitled *The Musical Side of Thomas Jefferson*.

The life of Thomas Jefferson, 1743-1826, spans the Colonial period and the Federalist period of American history. Until the Declaration of Independence was written and ratified in 1776, the nation was a collection of colonies, each governing themselves, thus, the Colonial period. After 1776, new documents separated state and federal powers and our nation became a Federalist country.

OBJECTIVES: Students will:

- Understand the context of the importance of music in Jefferson's lifetime
- Compare and contrast the influence of music in 18th century Colonial and contemporary life
- Compare and contrast music studies with other activities and obligations in 18th century and contemporary times

MATERIALS:

- Free streaming video: *The Musical Side of Thomas Jefferson* at <http://www.vemea.org/TJefferson/020110/>
- Computer or LCD and screen
- Thomas Jefferson paragraph (attachment)
- "Chart Your Daily Schedule" writing assignment (attachment)

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE: none

STANDARDS:

National Standards for Music Education

- 6. Listening to, analyzing, and describing music
- 9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture

Virginia Standards of Learning for Music Education

- MS.6 The student will investigate the role of music in society.
MS.6 (2) Identify the influence of daily music experience in one's personal life.
- MS.9 The student will identify and compare the relationships between music and other disciplines.

PROCEDURES:

Day One:

1. View Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 (20 minutes) of *The Musical Side of Thomas Jefferson* at <http://www.vemea.org/TJefferson/020110/>
2. Students review what they heard about music and musical instruments of the times.
3. Students read the document "Thomas Jefferson paragraph" (attachment)
4. Individually draft "Chart Your Daily Schedule" (attachment)

Day Two:

1. View Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 (20 minutes) of *The Musical Side of Thomas Jefferson* at <http://www.vemea.org/TJefferson/020110/>
2. Students complete writing assignment from Day One and share with a partner.

3. Select a few paragraphs to read aloud to the class.
4. Talk about the relationships between music studies of today and music of Jefferson's time. Discuss differences and similarities between time spent "now and then" on varied activities (music, sports, language and religious classes, etc). Create a "Now and Then" list using student ideas.

ASSESSMENTS:

Informal Subjective Assessment: Student participation in discussions about the video, and student writing assignment share-out

Formal Objective Assessment: Teacher-made guidelines for written paragraph, and for completing written paragraph as assigned

EXTENSIONS:

Discussion or Written Assignment : Is the role of music in contemporary American society the same as in the 18th century? Why or why not? Discuss or research the role of music in contemporary cultures of **other countries**.

Individual Study Project: Research and write about one of the following topics in Jefferson's time: Chamber Music, Colonial Music, Military Music, Church Music, Dance Music, Theater Music, Bands in Early America.

Live Quartet: Invite a local middle or high school to provide a trio or quartet of musicians to play for the class. Ask them to be prepared to talk about the pieces they choose to play.

Worksheets: 1. Word find: Thomas Jefferson – His Many Sides

2. Double Word Puzzle: Thomas Jefferson – Famous American

LESSON PLAN RESOURCES:

1. Virginia Chamber Orchestra – *The Musical Side of Thomas Jefferson*, Student Resource and Activity Guide

LESSON DOWNLOADS:

Thomas Jefferson paragraph

Extension Activities: Word Find: Thomas Jefferson – His Many Sides

Double Word Puzzle: Thomas Jefferson – Famous American

LESSON MEDIA:

Free streaming video: *The Musical Side of Thomas Jefferson* at <http://www.vemea.org/TJefferson/020110/>

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

1. "The Musical Side of Thomas Jefferson." Virginiachamberorchestra.org. Web. 14 Sep 2010.
2. Stanley, M.Z. and Sica A. "Student Resources and Activities Guide, p.10, The Musical Side of Thomas Jefferson." Fairfax Network, 1998. Web. 14 Sep 2010.
3. "Puzzlemaker," Discovery Education. Discovery Education, 2008. Web. 17 Sep 2010.

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