

Participants in the Sounds of the Centuries tour will use the Walters' collections to explore art and music across time and cultures. Use the suggestions below, either before or after your museum visit, to encourage further inquiry in the classroom.

ACTIVITIES:

- Collect a good mix of music that spans cultures and time periods. Listen to these selections with students and ask them to then draw or paint their own interpretations of the sounds. What kinds of lines, shapes, or colors represent the sounds they are hearing? You can use the work of modern painters like Kandinsky (who did this often) as a reference in this lesson.
- The tour outlines a number of purposes that different cultures had for creating and playing music. Do we make music for the same reasons today? Ask students what today's music for celebration sounds like. What about music for communication, entertainment, or religion? Discuss the variety of styles within each – does all music for entertainment sound similar, for example?
- Ask students to work in groups to research one type of music or instrument that they learned about at the museum -- preferably one that they didn't know about before. Have them share what they found with the class.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

For the first activity, a search on the music section of Amazon.com for “ancient music,” or “medieval music,” etc. will give you a lot of options for CDs to play in the classroom. Do a similar search at your library and see what you find.

Ancient Egyptian music and dance: <http://nefertiti.iwebland.com/timelines/topics/music.htm>

Ancient Greek music and instruments: <http://www.mlahanas.de/Greeks/Music.htm>

Early medieval music links: <http://www.medieval.org/emfaq/>