

# Musical Lessons Utilizing an Outdoor Instrument, or “Metallophone”

## Scale Lessons

Teach students about different kinds of scales. Play major, minor, pentatonic, and chromatic scales for them. Ask how they make students feel. Explain the merits of designing an instrument with a pentatonic scale in which there are no “wrong notes”.

## Song Composition and Performance

Give students a chance to write their own song using the metallophone. This is a great way for students to apply rhythm, so encourage them to use a variety of different note lengths! Give students the opportunity to show off their original songs to the class in a performance in front of their peers.

## Pitch Differences

The aim of this lesson is to teach students that the longer an instrument is, the lower it sounds. Begin with the metallophone, asking students, “Which is lower? The longer bars or the shorter ones?” When it’s been firmly established that the longer bars will always be lower, apply this knowledge to other instruments such as varying sized drums.

