

# Peter and the Wolf

## A Music Lesson on a Russian Children's Classic



### Overview & Purpose

Students will learn about Russia's most popular children's musical gift. Peter and the Wolf was composed by Sergei Prokofiev in 1936. It is a children's story with narration with an orchestra illustrating the story.

### Education Standards

(K.3) Historical/cultural heritage. The student relates music to history, to society, and to culture. The student is expected to: (A) sing songs and play musical games from different cultures; and (B) identify simple relationships between music and other subjects.

(1.5) Historical/cultural heritage. The student relates music to history, to society, and to culture. The student is expected to: (A) sing songs and play musical games from diverse cultures; and (B) identify simp

(2.5) Historical/cultural heritage. The student relates music to history, to society, and to culture. The student is expected to: (A) identify music from various periods of history and culture; (B) sing songs and play musical games from diverse cultures; and (C) identify

(3.5) Historical/cultural heritage. The student relates music to history, to society, and to culture. The student is expected to: (A) identify aurally-presented excerpts of



music representing diverse genres, styles, periods, and cultures; (B) perform songs and musical games from diverse cultures; and (C) describe

(4.5) Historical/cultural heritage. The student relates music to history, to society, and to culture. The student is expected to: (A) identify aurally-presented excerpts of music representing diverse genres, styles, periods, and cultures; (B) perform music and movement from diverse cultures; (C) perform music representative of American and Texas heritage; and (D) identify connections between music and the other fine arts.

(5.5) Historical/cultural heritage. The student relates music to history, to society, and to culture. The student is expected to: (A) identify aurally-presented excerpts of music representing diverse genres, styles, periods, and cultures; (B) describe various music vocations and avocations; (C) perform music and movement from diverse cultures; (D) perform music representative of American and Texas heritage; and (E) identify concepts taught in the other fine arts and their relationships to music concepts.

## Materials Needed

1. Paper (Drawing Paper)
2. Pencil with No Eraser
3. Youtube videos and music
4. Colors or colored pencils

## Vocabulary

- Retelling
- Composer
- Illustration

## Student Objectives

- 1) Use aural and visual skills to identify a variety of instruments/instrument families/instrumental themes.
- 2) Explore how music can convey different emotions.
- 3) Extend the story through: movement, story sequencing and retelling, and musical art.

## Activity

### History

Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev wrote a piece titled, *Peter and the Wolf*. This is a composition written for chamber orchestra and a narrator. It is one of Prokofiev's cherished works and will delight children while offering an opportunity to learn important skills through classical music.

Sergei Prokofiev (1891-1953) was born in Russia (show the children on a world map where Russia is located in relation to where they live). The music is a story of Peter and many characters as each character is illustrated by a specific musical instrument. Prokofiev introduces a variety of instrument families and characters through instrumental themes in *Peter and the Wolf*. **Peter** is played by the violin (string instrument family); the **bird** is played by the flute (woodwind family); the **duck** is played by the oboe (woodwind family); the **cat** is played by the clarinet (woodwind family), the **Grandfather** is played by the bassoon (woodwind family); the **Wolf** is played by the french horn (brass family); and the **Hunters** are played by the timpani (percussion family).

### Activity:

#### Use this piece for activity:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MfM7Y9Pcdzw>

1. Pass out three to four pieces of paper to each student.
2. Pass a pencil to each student
3. Explain to the students that they are going to listen to the story and music of Russian Composer Sergei Prokofiev. As they listen to the piece they need to pay attention to the story and how the musical instruments play a role in the illustration of the story. Explain to them that illustration comes in many forms. Read to them the summary above of who he is and what this specific piece represents in reference to the instruments and the characters. .
4. Play the piece of music to the students and explain to the students that they are going to illustrate the story being told to them through an art expression called sketch. They will help tell their version of the story using different parts of the story. The three pages should have a beginning, middle and end illustrated on their pages. The students' work would represent a three part art sketch.

5. As you play the music and piece from Peter and the Wolf, ask the children to create an illustration of what they are experiencing while listening to the music. Let the emotions of the music and story be displayed on their paper drawing. How many characters are in their artwork? What part stood out during the recording. Ask the children to free draw what they hear while listening to Peter and the Wolf.
6. When the piece is over, have the students share their work to their classmates and show off their interpretive illustration of Peter and the Wolf.
7. Display their work for a week to showcase the story.

## Extension

1. Can watch the video from the most modern tale of Peter and the Wolf at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2LRz4ggjp8>
2. As they watch, have them add color to their pictures and show them pictures of the colors used for their buildings made so famous by Russia. Explain to them how color is a vital part of their culture and they can see it in these famous buildings.
3. Check Next Page for Pics and you can project on a screen or print out a couple of sheets to spread out.

