

THE BREMEN TOWN MUSICIANS

Math: What instrument do you play?

Students Will

- Use mathematical operation to solve real world situations.
- Utilize a chart and analyze data to answer questions.

Copies for Each Student

- Activity Worksheet

For the Teacher

- **The Story of the Opera**
- **Activity Worksheet**
- Model Lesson Sheet
- Sample Answer Key

Getting Ready

Decide which section(s) of the lesson you wish your students to complete.

Gather materials:

- Map pencils
- Pencils
- Extra paper

Instructional Time

One 45-minute class period

Introduction

Read **The Story of the Opera** to your class. Discuss the fact that the animals were no longer able to stay in their home and had to use their skills to make a living. Remind the students that all the animals were musically inclined and able to make a band. Since it is not specified in the opera what instruments Barcarolle and Dorabella played, ask the students what instruments would fit best with General Boom's drum and Eddie's voice. Continue the conversation by asking them what instrument they would like to play if they were in the band. Use the top three answers given by the class to fill in the blanks for the instruments at the bottom of the chart. Have each individual student in class vote on which instrument they would

like to play. Using the data collected, have the students fill in the chart and answer the questions that follow.

Guided and Independent Practice

Using the data collected by the class, list the three most popular instruments at the bottom of the chart shown in Part A of the **Activity Worksheet**. Allow the students to use their data to complete the chart.

Kindergarten

Have students work together in groups to fill in the chart using symbols or shapes to represent each vote. Discuss the results with the class and work through the questions together.

1st Grade

Have the students work independently to fill in the chart and answer the questions that follow. Then have students reflect on the activity and list two skills that were used to complete the assignment.

If time allows

You may instruct the students to create their own questions, based on their data, and switch questions to see if their classmates can answer the questions correctly.

Evaluation:

1. Did the class choose three instruments?
2. Were the students able to answer the questions using the information in the chart?
3. Were the students able to create their own questions?

TEKS**Mathematics****Kindergarten**

(1) Mathematical process standards. The student uses mathematical processes to acquire and demonstrate mathematical understanding. (A. C.)

(2) Number and operations. The student applies mathematical process standards to understand how to represent and compare whole numbers, the relative position and magnitude of whole numbers, and relationships within the numeration system. (A. B. C. E. F. G. I.)

1st Grade

(1) Mathematical process standards. The student uses mathematical processes to acquire and demonstrate mathematical understanding. (A. B. C. E.)

(3) Number and operations. The student applies mathematical process standards to develop and use strategies for whole number addition and subtraction computations in order to solve problems. (A. B. D. E. F.)

Correlates: Language Arts

Gardner's Intelligences: Linguistic, Logical-Mathematical

Bloom's Taxonomy: Understand, Analyze, Evaluate

References:

<http://operatales.com/three-little-pigs.shtml> Accessed on 12/11/15

The Story of the Opera

Eddie Pensier, a rooster with operatic aspirations, is chased away from his farm for waking the entire barnyard by singing tenor arias (songs). He decides to look for some pirates, who he thinks will be his friends and help him to survive. On the very same day, Barcarolle the dog, and Dorabella the cat, are cast out by their owners for being too old to catch rabbits and mice. As Barcarolle and Dorabella make their way through the woods near the road to Bremen, they meet General Boom, a retired army donkey, who is marching along playing his drum. After hearing the reason they were forced to leave their homes, the general awards medals to them for being nice to rabbits and mice. In further appreciation of their kindness, General Boom also invites them to come to Bremen to play in his new band. Dorabella and Barcarolle are overjoyed at the invitation but must decline because they have promised to open a retirement home for old dogs and cats.

Eddie, who has now joined the Sea-sick Pirates, has been hiding and watching General Boom, Barcarolle, and Dorabella. When Dorabella and Barcarolle leave, Eddie draws his sword and startles the general with a big shout, "Cock-a-doodle-doo! ARRRRRRRRRRRRR!" General Boom, after calming himself, asks Eddie to stop trying to frighten him and invites the singing rooster to Bremen to join his new band. Eddie declines the invitation because he has promised to never think for himself and will only do whatever the pirates command. Therefore, the general bids Eddie farewell but suddenly realizes his drum is missing! Eddie confesses that the pirates commanded him to distract the general so they could steal the drum. General Boom vows to get his drum back and recruits Eddie to help. However, Eddie does not pay attention to where General Boom is marching and heads off in the wrong direction.

Meanwhile, Dorabella and Barcarolle have gotten lost and start to blame each other angrily. They spot Eddie and demand to know who he is. Eddie demands to know who they are, and all three animals begin arguing so loudly that General Boom hears their shouting. He tells them that they should learn to get along and extends another invitation for them to

join his band. With the woods surrounding the Bremen Road filled with uncertainty and rumors of pirates all about, they decide that it is best for them all to stick together. Therefore, Dorabella, Barcarolle, and Eddie agree to join the general's new band and march with him to Bremen. Eddie warns everyone that the house belonging to the Sea-sick Pirates is on the way to Bremen and that General Boom's drum is probably there. Working together as a team, the four create a plan to scare the pirates away from the house disguising themselves as a big noisy monster! Their plan succeeds and Eddie is able to return the drum to its rightful owner, General Boom. As they make their way to their new home, the newly-formed Bremen Town Musicians celebrate the idea that friendship, cooperation, and respect for others is far better than facing problems alone.

The Characters

Eddie Pensier: (*Tenor*) A singing rooster with artistic aspirations who loves singing opera.

General Boom: (*Bass or Baritone*) A retired Army donkey and percussionist.

Barcarolle: (*Mezzo or Soprano*) An old dog and best friend of Dorabella.

Dorabella: (*Soprano or Mezzo*) An old cat and best friend of Barcarolle.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Activity Worksheet

- A. As a class, everyone will vote on instrument they would like to play in a band from 3 the chosen by the class. Use those instruments and fill in the blanks lines below. listed below. Fill in chart with the number of votes each instrument receives.

10			
9			
8			
7			
6			
5			
4			
3			
2			
1			
	Instrument 1:	Instrument 2:	Instrument 3:

- B. Now that the voting is complete, answer the questions below using the chart.

1. Which instruments did your class choose?

2. Which instrument has the most votes? _____

3. Which instrument has the least amount votes? _____

4. Which instrument did you choose? _____

5. How many votes were taken all together? _____

Bonus:

6. What is the difference in votes between instrument 1 and instrument 2? _____

7. What are the total votes for instrument 1 and instrument 3? _____

SAMPLE ANSWER KEY: Answers will vary depending on class.

Activity Worksheet

A. As a class, everyone will vote for their favorite color from 3 the choices listed below. Fill in chart with the number of votes each color receives.

10			
9			
8			
7			
6			
5			
4			
3			
2			
1			
	Instrument 1: Drums	Instrument 2: Trumpet	Instrument 3: Flute

B. Now that the voting is complete, answer the questions below using the chart.

- Which instruments did your class choose? **Drums, Trumpets and Flutes.**
- Which instrument has the most votes? **Drums**
- Which instrument has the least amount votes? **Flute**
- Which instrument did you choose? **Drums**
- How many votes were taken all together? **19**

Bonus:

- What is the difference in votes between instrument 1 and instrument 2? **3 more Drums**
- What are the total votes for instrument 1 and instrument 3? **13 Drums and Flutes together.**

