



Destination Denver Lesson 1

Grades 6th - 8th



Lesson 1

Discovery

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Summary:

Our musical journey through Denver begins with discovery. The mind is such a beautiful place full of ideas, colors, music and imaginary places. In this lesson we will listen to Jupiter from The Planets by Gustav Holst, dive into a new song by Chinelo, and take a look at your own neighborhoods.

Essential Question:

What is the importance of different neighborhoods and how can they inspire art and music?

Learning Outcomes:

- Students can participate cooperatively in group activities.
- Students can communicate similarities and differences in music from various historical periods with music of today.
- Students can investigate ideas of personal interest to plan and create works of visual art and design.
- Students can identify and describe ways in which music is selected for use in society.
- Students can aurally identify and differentiate characteristics of musical styles/genres.

Materials Needed:

- Large white paper (enough for each group)
- Coloring utensils
- Writing utensil
- Computer/projector/speaker

Repertoire Selection:

- The Planets: Jupiter - Gustav Holst
- Next Stop Denver - Chinelo

Inter-Department Collaborations:

Visual Arts

Social Studies

Literacy



Lesson 1

Listening Activity 1

Directions:

Listen to 3-4 minutes of Jupiter and fill out the listening worksheet.

Student Activity Prompt:

Many composers and songwriters use inspiration from nature, people, culture, communities and their imagination to write music.

Gustav Holst, the composer of Jupiter and The Planets, enjoyed going on musical journeys through studying different countries and cultures. The Planets is a musical work of a journey through space and what it would look like and feel like to Gustav Holst in his imaginary universe. Let's listen to Holst's interpretation of Jupiter.

Listen to Jupiter [HERE](#)

Activity 1 Discussion Questions:

Did you like Holst's interpretation of Jupiter? How would you have made it sound different?

Transition Question:

What are other types of places people can write songs or music about?

Listening Activity 2

Directions:

Learn about Denver with the Quick Facts page and then listen to Next Stop Denver by Chinelo and play the Lyric Bingo game on the next page to discover how Chinelo was inspired by the neighborhoods of Denver in his new song.

Listen to Next Stop Denver [HERE](#)

Activity 2 Discussion Questions:

What did you think about Chinelo's song Next Stop Denver? Have you heard of any of those places or neighborhoods in Denver?

Transition Question:

What does the word 'neighborhood' mean to you and why are they important?

Writing Activity

Directions:

Working individually have students think about the neighborhood they live in and answer the questions on the worksheet.

Student Prompting Questions:

Think about the neighborhood you live in.

What does it look like? What types of buildings does it have?

What kind of businesses does it have? What do the houses look like?

What do the people look like? Are there any special foods your neighborhood has?

What kind of art is around your neighborhood? What kind of music do you hear around your neighborhood?



Quick Facts

Denver

The first time people lived in the Denver area was the summer of 1858 during the Pikes Peak Gold Rush when gold prospectors traveled from Kansas in search of gold.

Denver officially became a city on November 7, 1861.

Denver residents completed their first railway connecting the city to Cheyenne and Kansas in 1870.

Denver became the state capital in 1876.

Denver has the 10th largest downtown in America and one of the most walkable. Within a mile radius, downtown Denver has three major sports stadiums, the nation's second-largest performing arts center, three colleges, an assortment of art and history museums, a mint that produces 10 billion coins a year, a downtown theme and water park, and an aquarium.

Denver is named the Mile-High City because it is exactly one mile in elevation (5280 feet.)



Lesson 1

Active Listening



Listen to Gustav Holst's Jupiter from The Planets.

Write down three instruments you hear when listening?

1

2

3

What is the mood of the music? _____

Does the tempo change? If yes, how?

What kind of dynamics do you hear?

Draw or write what the music makes you see or feel.

If you were to write the music for the planet Jupiter, how would it sound different?



Lesson 1

Lyric Bingo

Directions:

- Choose 10 words/numbers from the box below and circle them.
- Listen to Next Stop Denver by Chinelo.
- Cross off the words you circled in Step 1 when you hear them in the song.
- Shout 'Bingo!' when you have crossed off all 10 words.

*You may need to listen to the song a few times!

CENTRAL PARK	FIVE POINTS	225	MILE HIGH CITY
303	CLEO PARKER	URBAN SANCTUARY	A-TOWN
RTD	I-70	RAILROAD	SLOPES
ADAMS COUNTY	ALTITUDE	HOLLYWOOD BARBERSHOP	720
WELTON	HIAWATHA	PARK HILL	COLFAX



Lesson 1

Neighborhood Worksheet

Think about the neighborhood you live in and answer the following questions.

Does your neighborhood have a name? _____

Is your neighborhood big or small?

What city is your neighborhood in?

What makes your neighborhood special? _____

Name four foods your neighborhood has:

What kind of music do you hear in your neighborhood?

What sports do you see in your neighborhood?

What do the people look like in your neighborhood? _____

What do you wish you could change in your neighborhood?

What is the best part about living in your neighborhood?

