


Major Work: The Planets

Grade Level: 3-5

School Name: Ventura Park

Listening	Movement	Playing Instruments	Aural Identification
<p>"Mars" from The Planets by Gustav Holst</p> <p>All 7 movements of the piece.</p>	<p>Create spaces in the room with hula hoops, each representing a planet. Students move to and receive information or work in these spaces, (when doing the whole piece).</p> <p>Give small groups of students hula hoops or scarves and have them create visuals or movement to represent the music.</p>	<p>Use the strong rhythm motif of the Mars movement from the planets. Arrange percussion instruments to play the driving rhythm:</p> 	<p>Students should recognize the "Mars" movement from the suite, "The Planets".</p> <p>Students could identify the rhythmic motif from "Mars".</p>
Visuals	Resources	Lesson Extensions	Assessments
<p>You Tube videos (many available organized by movement.)</p> <p>Space artwork – Crayola.com has a fun art activity. Students paint outer space onto pieces of cardboard. They then shape the solar system out of model clay. They glue the planets to the cardboard and label them in different languages. An extension has students make planet necklaces with the model clay. They can listen to "The Planets" as they create.</p>	<p>You Tube videos</p> <p>Crayola.com</p> <p>Internet facts</p> <p>Grade 5 curriculum in DD includes study of the planets</p> <p>List of the 7 movements of the suite in order with descriptions</p> <p>A good recording of "The Planets"</p>	<p>Have students discover what planets are NOT included in the suite and why.</p> <p>Give brief information on astrology and how this influenced Holst's vision/inspiration for the piece (as opposed to astronomy).</p> <p>Using a worksheet, have students in groups predict how the composer will use basic elements of music to describe each planet BEFORE they listen to the suite. (see attached worksheet.) Then listen to the music comparing their ideas w/composer's.</p>	<p>Students could pick the "Mars" movement out from a collection of other symphonic pieces of music with similar themes, such as Star Wars, 2001 Space Odyssey, etc.</p>

