

Major Work: Variations On Simple Gifts from Appalachian Spring/Copland Grade Level: 4

School Name: VP

Listening	Movement	Playing Instruments	Aural Identification
<p>Introduce the Shaker song, “Simple Gifts” with words (pg. 136 Gr. 5 text)</p> <p>Play variations on Simple Gifts from Appalachian Spring by Aaron Copland (section #7 of the symphony)</p>	<p>*Perform a simple dance (folk dance) to Simple Gifts. (pg. 137 Gr. 5 text)</p> <p>*Have students create a dance to Appalachian Spring planning ways that the dance could be changed for each of the 4 variations in the theme. The theme could be done by one dancer, then more added to each variation.</p> <p>*You could discuss that this piece is a ballet. You could talk about ballet as an art form. Show students a segment of the ballet choreographed by Martha Graham on Youtube.</p>	<p>Play a recorder descant to Simple Gifts. (attached)</p> <p>Play Simple Gifts arrangement in <u>Folk Music Ensembles</u> by Mari Schay</p> <p>Play an Orff orchestration to Simple Gifts. (attached)</p> <p>If a guitar or autoharp is available use simple F and C chords to accompany Simple Gifts.</p>	<p>*Students can identify simple quarter and eighth note patterns of the melody.</p> <p>*Students can identify variations of the theme – how the composer changed the song without changing the melody or basic rhythms.</p>
Visuals	Resources	Lesson Extensions	Assessments
<p><b>Music Map</b> old Macmillan Music &amp; You series TE pg. 22 (attached)</p> <p>Students could create their own map to this piece. They could again use the t-shirt worksheet they used to learn theme and variations, or they could use a similar worksheet with 5 “gift” boxes, one for the main theme and 4 others, one for each variation.</p>	<p>Use a US map to show where the Appalachian mountains are.</p> <p>Good recording of Appalachian Spring and Simple Gifts</p> <p>Choral arrangement of Simple Gifts in The Journey arr. By Joseph M. Martin (from previous Choral Fest.)</p> <p>Youtube video of the ballet</p> <p>Information on Quakers/Shakers and their simple way of life. Pictures of their life style would be helpful.</p>	<p>*Teach variations on a theme. Using a worksheet with 5 blank t-shirts on it, have the students make a design on the center t-shirt (main theme). Ask the students to use at least 3 of the same elements from the center shirt, but to change them around (variations) on the 4 other shirts.</p> <p>*Relate this idea to compare/contrast the song, “Simple Gifts” to the section of Appalachian Spring that contains the song in variations.</p> <p>*Discuss the ways Copland changed or varied the melody in his orchestration.</p>	<p>Students should be able to name ways in which a melody can be varied in music without changing the rhythm or melody. (change tempo, dynamic levels, play as canon, change underlying chords, play in higher or lower registers, use different instruments, etc.)</p> <p>Students should be able to recognize the 4 variations of Simple Gifts within Appalachian Spring.</p>