

Peter AND THE Wolf

VERY YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT

2026 Teacher Guide



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Johann Strauss Radetzky March

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Leroy Anderson Plink, Plank, Plunk

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Leroy Anderson The Waltzing Cat

Sergei Prokofiev Peter and the Wolf

Aram Demirjian



Aram Demirjian is the Music Director of the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra (KSO). He has been conducting the KSO for 10 years! Aram has been praised for his “graceful, energetic direction” (Sarasota Herald Tribune) and dynamic programming for people of all ages.

He is a champion of American music and is passionate about emphasizing music by living composers and artists from underrepresented groups in his programming. In addition to his leadership in Knoxville, Aram is a frequent guest conductor with orchestras across the United States and has also appeared with ensembles internationally!

Aram holds a joint Bachelor of Arts in Music and Government from Harvard University, and a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting from New England Conservatory. A native of the Boston area, he currently resides in Knoxville with his wife, daughter, and their goldendoodle, Kermit.

Jason Hardy



Jason Hardy, Knoxville Opera's General Director & CEO, served previously at Opera Memphis and OperaDelaware. Before this work, Hardy had an 18-year career as an operatic bass, singing leading roles in many of the country's most prestigious opera and concert halls.

Mr. Hardy received a Master's degree and Artist Diploma from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University after his studies in business and music at Emory University.

Go! Contemporary Dance Works

GO! Contemporary is a dance company in Knoxville that has been bringing dance to the community since 2003. Their mission is to share the joy of dance and inspire kids to express themselves creatively through movement.

GO! blends many different styles of dance, including ballet, modern dance, and aerial movement, to create exciting shows.

They are known for storytelling through bold, adventurous dances filled with surprises, cool costumes, and creative ideas that make people think, imagine, and have fun.

GO! performs at schools, festivals, senior centers, and special events, and often partners with local organizations like the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra for performances all around East Tennessee.



WHAT IS A COMPOSER?

A composer is an person who writes music. Sometimes they write music for groups as large as an orchestra or for a single instrument.

In orchestral works, composers often use music to tell a story. Composers can write pieces of music based on many things, such as dreams, places, people, animals, events, or poems.



Johann Strauss

March 14, 1804 – September 25, 1849



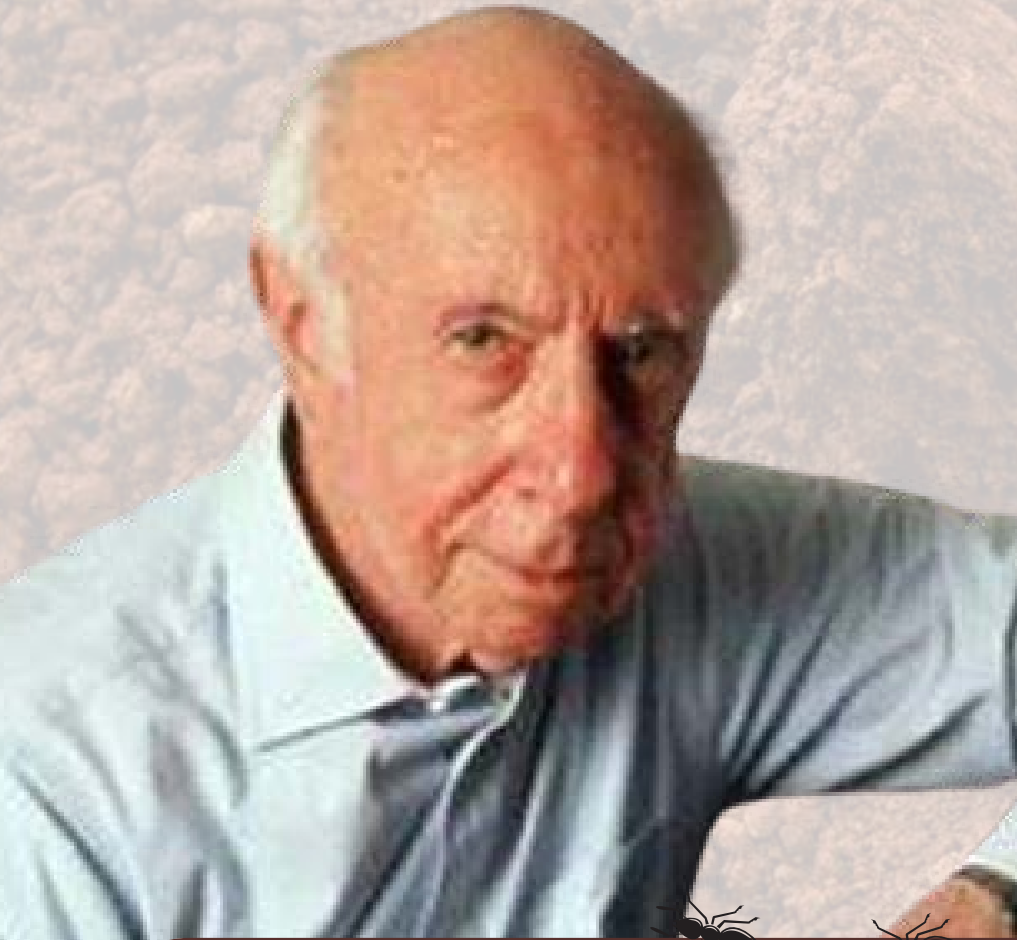
Johann Strauss Sr. was a famous Austrian composer and conductor. He is known for his light and fun compositions, which were often different types of dance music, such as waltzes and polkas.

Strauss had three sons who also became famous musicians and composers.

He is most well-known for his piece the *Radetzky March*.

The “**Radetzky March**” was first performed in 1848. It is known for its tradition for the audience to clap or march along during the trio section.

What animal does the *Radetzky March* make you think of?



Morton Gould

December 10, 1913 - February 21, 1996

Morton Gould was an American composer, conductor, and pianist. He loved mixing different styles of music in his compositions, such as classical, jazz, folk, and popular tunes.

“American Salute” was written in eight hours for a radio broadcast during World War II. It is based off of the melody “When Johnny Comes Marching Home.” You might know this familiar tune as “The Ants Go Marching.”

Morton was a *child prodigy*, meaning he was very good at writing and playing music at a very young age. He started playing the piano when he was very young and published his first piece of music at age 6!



Edward Elgar

June 2, 1857 - February 23, 1934

Sir Edward Elgar was a famous English composer. He was mostly self-taught as musician and learned how to read and write music from spending time in his father's music shop.

In addition to writing music, Elgar was a conductor and teacher.

One of his most well-known works is *Pomp and Circumstance*, which you might have heard at a graduation ceremony!



At age 10, Elgar wrote music for plays about fairies and imaginary lands that he and his siblings performed. He later used this music to compose his ***The Wand of Youth*** Suites, which included the movement “**Moths and Butterflies.**”

Leroy Anderson

June 29, 1908 - May 18, 1975

Leroy Anderson was an American composer born in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He played piano and trombone and began studying music at the New England Conservatory of Music at age 11.

He liked turning everyday sounds into music – like the typewriter, sandpaper, and even sleigh bells! His music, such as “Sleigh Ride,” is cheerful, imaginative, and easy for everyone to love.



Plink, Plank, Plunk is unique because the string players do not use their bows at all! They play only by plucking the strings with their fingers, which is a technique called *pizzicato*.

George Gershwin

September 26, 1898 - July 11, 1937

George Gershwin was an American composer and pianist who composed jazz, popular, and classical music. He loved music so much that he taught himself to play piano as a kid.

He grew up in a busy New York neighborhood where he loved hearing all kinds of music around him. Gershwin wrote energetic, toe-tapping pieces like "Rhapsody in Blue" and fun songs for Broadway musicals.



"Promenade" from *Walking the Dog* is a musical number written by Gershwin in 1937 for the score for a Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers film, *Shall We Dance*. In the film, the music accompanies a scene where passengers walked their dogs on deck of a luxury cruise ship.

Sergei Prokofiev

April 23, 1891 - March 5, 1953



Sergei Prokofiev was a Russian composer known for using music to tell stories.

He learned piano beginning at age 3 and by age 11 he had composed many pieces of music, including two full operas!

Prokofiev liked trying new things in his compositions, like adding strange harmonies, complex rhythms, and humor. He is best known for his operas and ballets.



One of Prokofiev's most famous musical stories is ***Peter and the Wolf***, which he wrote for Russia's Central Children's Theatre. In this story, each character is played by a different instrument



Digital Resources



Scan the QR codes or click below to access additional materials to help prepare students for their trip with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra!

KSO Home Page

YouTube Playlist

Peter and the Wolf



[Click Here](#)



[Click Here](#)



[Click Here](#)

Lesson 1: Peter and the Wolf

**Learn about Peter and the Wolf
and complete the activities that follow!**

Standard: GM.R2.A

Objective:

Students will identify and discriminate between different orchestral instruments by listening and visually matching instrument names to characters.

Lesson 1: Activity 1

Peter and the Wolf

Read the story of Peter and the Wolf! ([Click Here](#))

There are many characters that you will meet. In the story of “Peter and the Wolf,” each character is played by a different musical instrument.

After you read the story, make your best guess as to which instrument might best represent each character. If you are familiar with Peter and the Wolf, test your memory!
(worksheet provided at the end of this packet)

DISCUSSION:

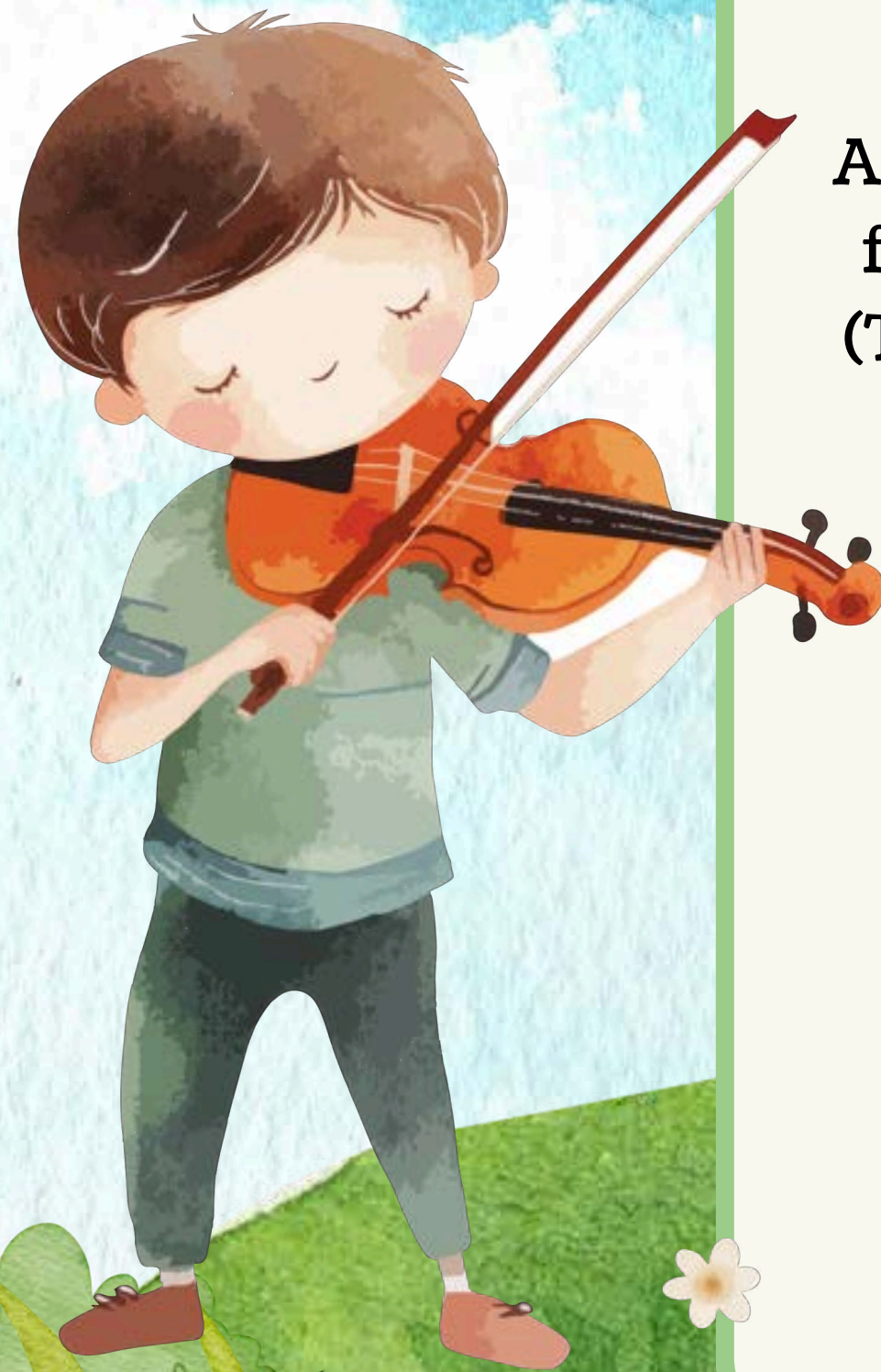
Talk with your class about why you think the instrument you chose is the BEST fit!



Peter and The Wolf

Let's meet the characters in the story "Peter and the Wolf" and the instruments that play them!

Each character has their own THEME or MELODY that you will hear in the music.



Listening Guide

As you learn about the characters, play the sound clips for each character using the timings provided below. (Times provide correspond with the video provided in the YouTube playlist found on slide 13.)

BIRD (Flute) - 0:00-0:18

DUCK (Oboe) - 0:18-0:33

CAT (Clarinet) - 0:34-0:48

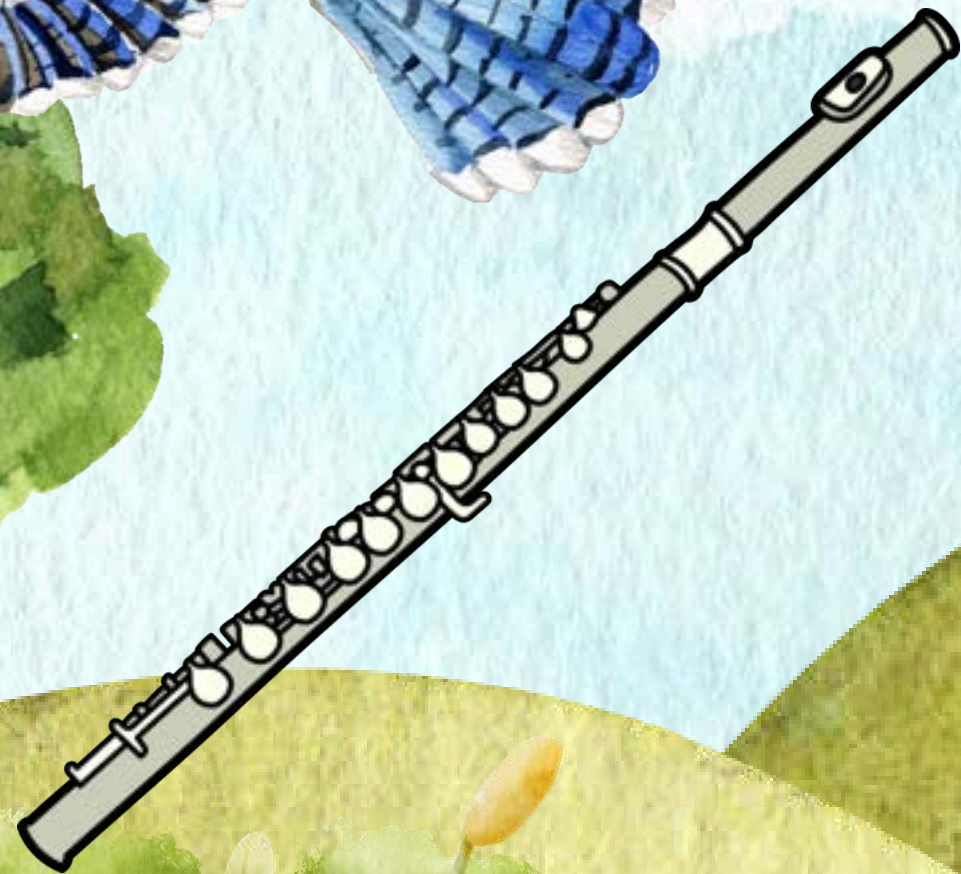
GRANDFATHER (Bassoon) - 0:49-1:04

WOLF (French Horns) - 1:05-1:32

PETER (Strings) - 1:33-1:56

THE HUNTERS (Timpani/Drums) - 1:57-2:18

Flute & the Bird



The Bird's Theme is played by the Flute.

The flute plays very fast passages, trills, and quick fluttering notes evoke fluttering wings and chirping.

Can you find the flute on the Orchestra Map?



Oboe & the Duck

The Duck's theme is played by the Oboe.

The oboe plays a slow passages that sound like quacking or wadding. The oboe's sound can be describes as nasally, like a duck.

Can you find the oboe?



Clarinet & The Cat

The Cat's Theme is played by the Clarinet.

The Clarinet plays a smooth, mellow sound that make you think of a soft, sneaky cat.

Can you find the clarinet on the Orchestra Map?

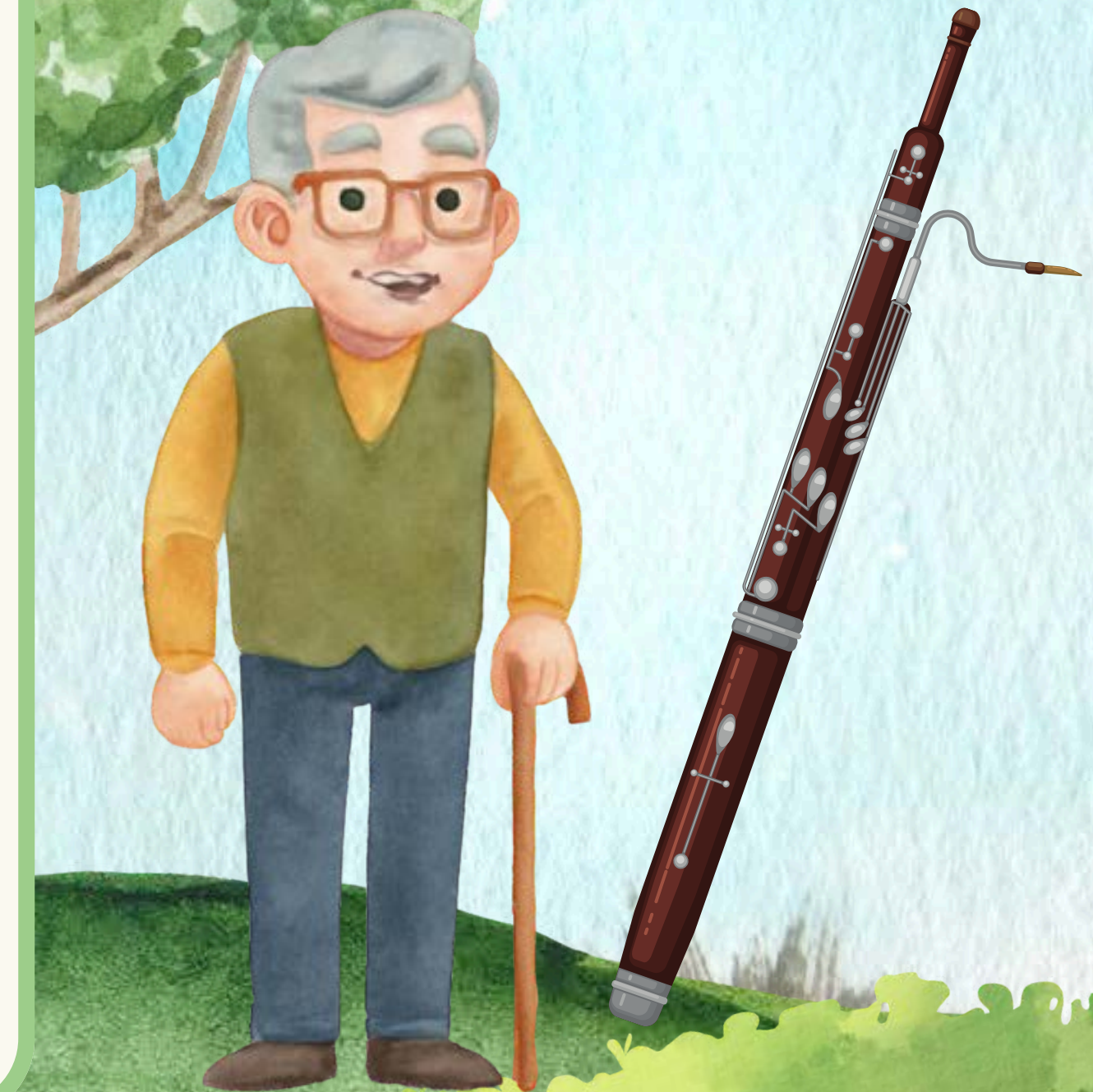


Bassoon & The Grandfather

The Grandfather's Theme is played by the Bassoon.

The bassoon has a low and woody sound that portrays the Grandfather's wise, but grumpy, nature.

Can you find the bassoon?

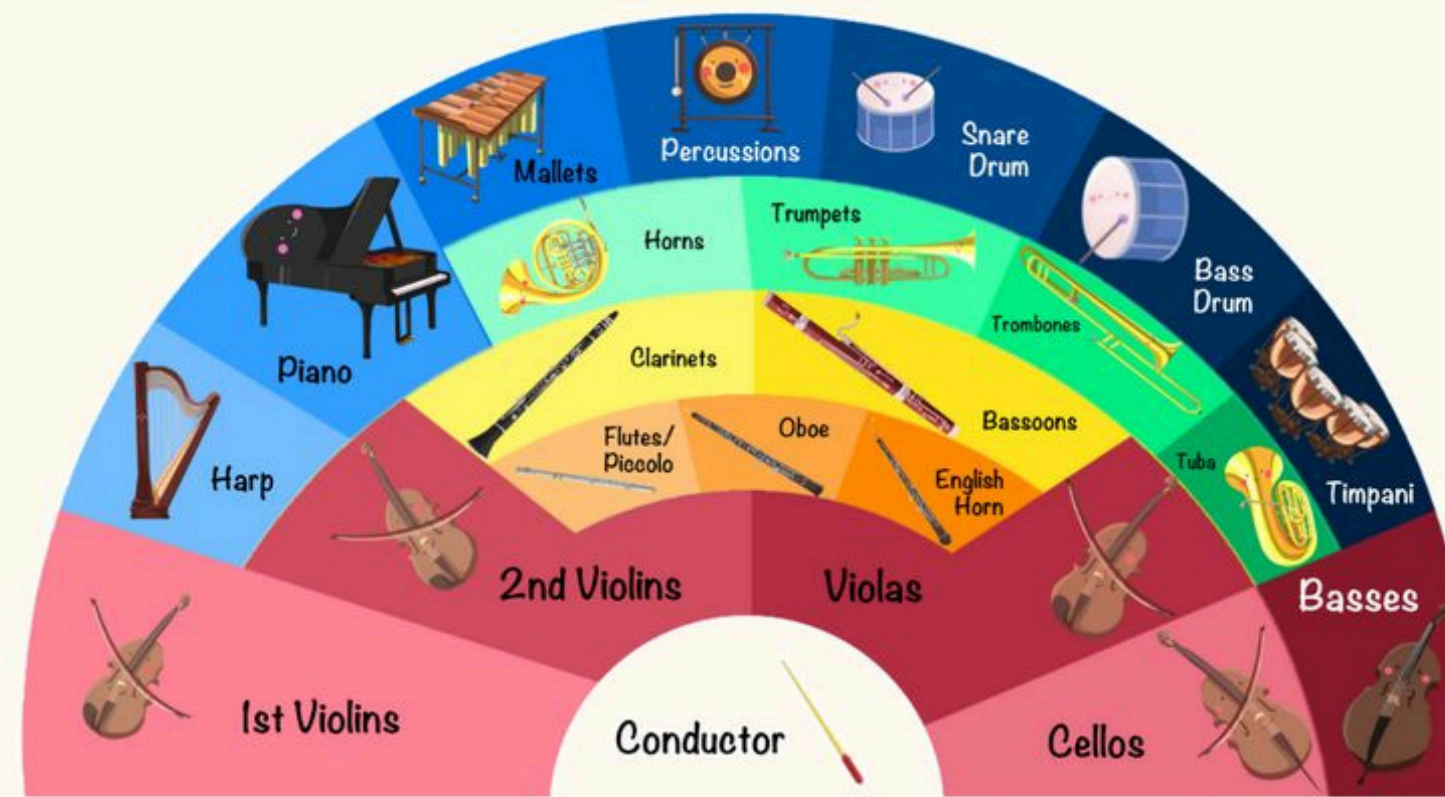


Horn & the Wolf

The Wolf's Theme is played by three French Horns.

Just like a powerful pack of wolves, the horns play a melody that both haunting and menacing. Their sound warns that danger, a big grey wolf, is near.

The horns are towards the back of the orchestra.
Can you find them?

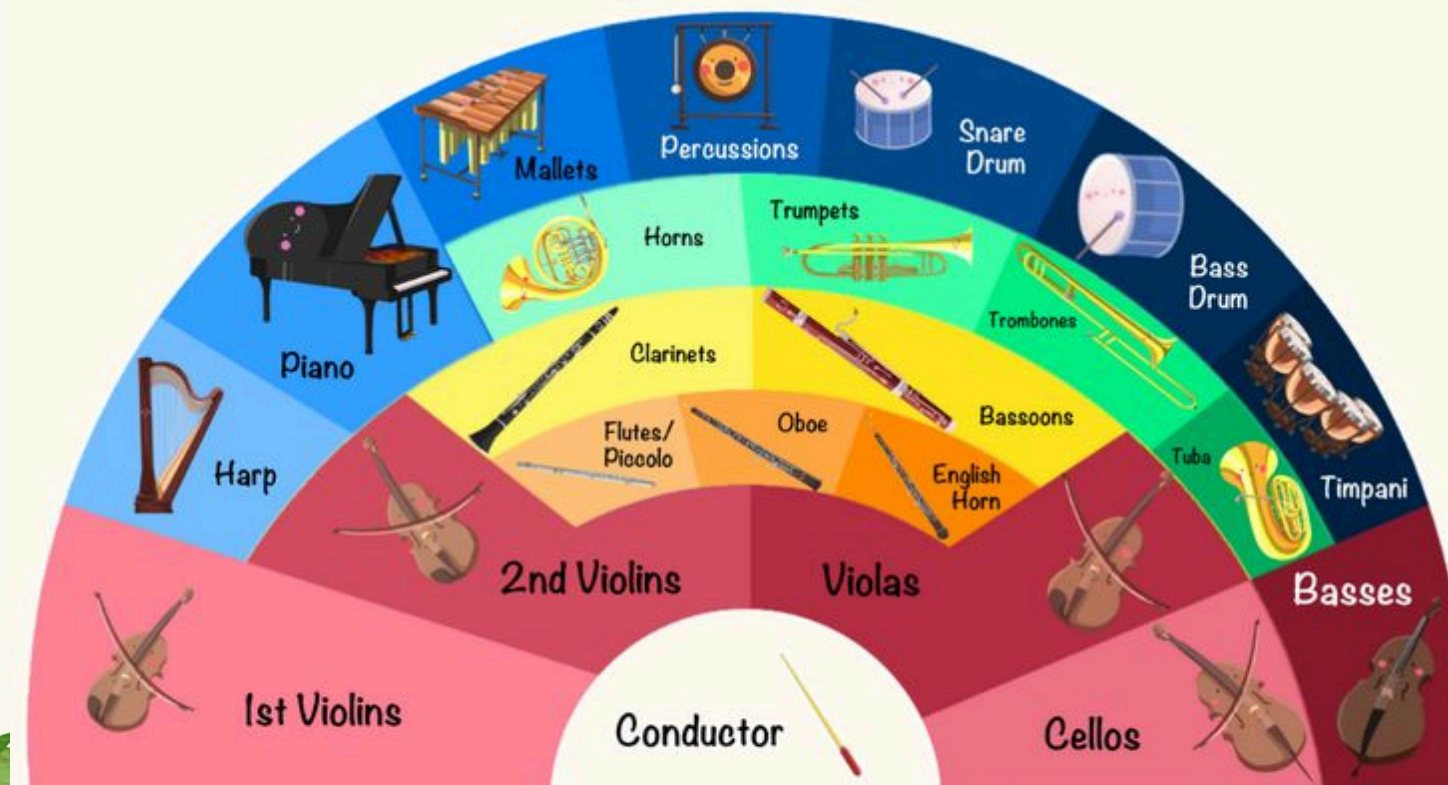


Peter & the String Section

Peter's theme is played by the string section.

Peter is a brave young boy and his theme is light, bouncing, and optimistic.

Can you find all the members of the string section on the orchestra map?



Timpani & the Hunters



The Hunter's Theme is played by the Timpani.

The rhythms played by the timpani are strong, and march-like. They are used to create the sound of a threat.

Can you find the timpani on the Orchestra Map?



Lesson 1: Activity 2

Listening & Matching

Now that you have learned about each character and the instrument that plays it, see if you can identify the character just by hearing their theme!

As you listen complete the Lesson 1: Activity 2 worksheet.
After you listen to each character theme, identify the instrument you hear and match it to its character in Peter and the Wolf by drawing a line to connect the two.

Animal and Instrument Matching

Draw a line to the matching pair



Lesson 2:

Animals and their Habitats

Animals are all around us! Some live in the wild, like the ocean or the mountains. Some animals live around us in East Tennessee.

And some animals live in our homes with us...pets!

Can you categorize each animal based on where they live?

Standard:

2.LS1.2

Objective:

Students will identify and categorize living habitats based on characteristics of animals.

A watercolor illustration of a landscape. On the left, a large green tree stands on a grassy hill. In the background, there are rolling green hills under a light blue sky. On the right, another green tree is visible. In the foreground, there is a stream with blue water and some green plants and rocks along the banks.

What is an Organism?

An organism is ANY living thing.

Animals, plants, people, bugs, and even very tiny things you can't see - like bacteria or algae!

Those very tiny organisms are called micro-organisms. You need magnifying glass or microscope to see them!

What is a Habitat?

A habitat is a place where organisms (animals, plants, and people) live and grow. It is the place they call home.

Habitats provide everything that is needed to stay alive, like food, water, and shelter.





Types of Habitat

There are two main types of habitat:

**Water Habitats
&
Land Habitats**

Land Habitats

There are many types of Land or “Terrestrial” Habitats, including forests, deserts, mountains, wetlands, and tundras.

Terrestrial habitats also include man made habitats, like farms, towns, and cities, and habitats that are under the earth, like caves and mines.

Examples of Terrestrial Organisms:
cats, ants, dogs, raccoons, spiders, kangaroos, tigers, lions, mice, bats, bulls, leopards, elephants, people and many more.

Water Habitats

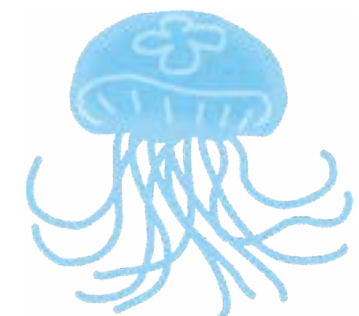
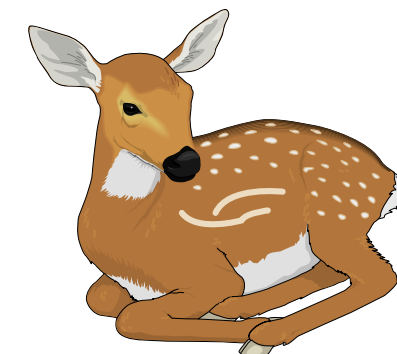
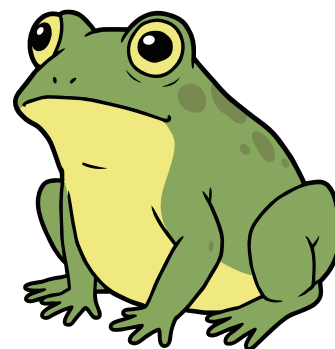
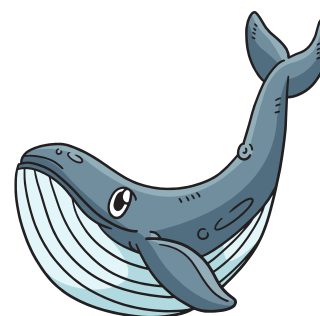
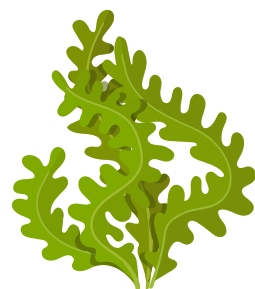
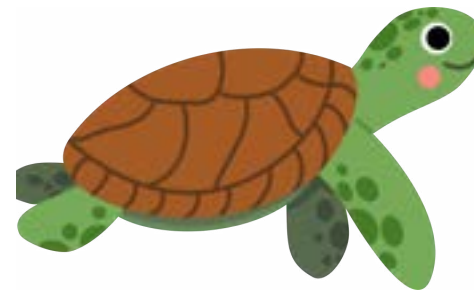
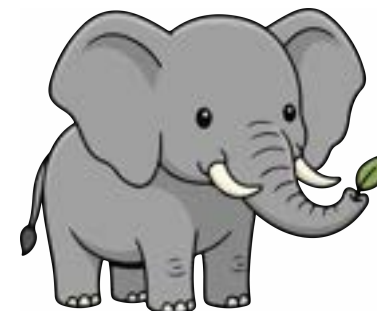
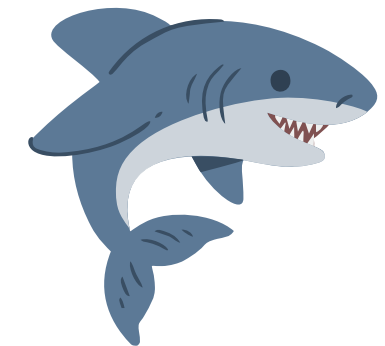
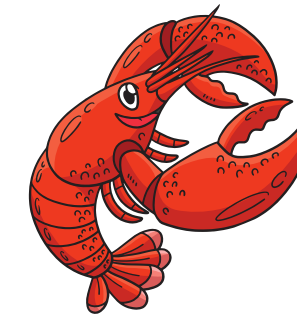
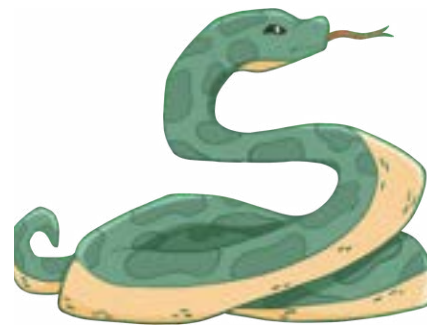
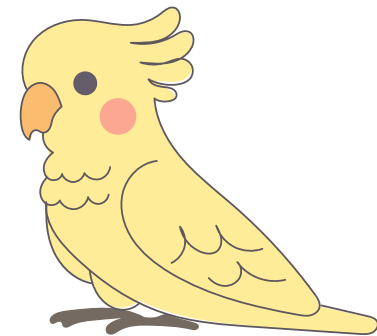
Water or Aquatic Habitats are home to organisms who's mode of survival is in water.

Water Habitats can be freshwater or salt water, and include places like oceans, lakes, ponds, streams, swamps, marches, and puddles.

Examples of Aquatic Organisms:
fish, frogs, whales, sharks, sea turtles, dolphins, crabs, choral, bacteria, plankton, and water bugs.

ORGANISM'S HABITATS

Look at the pictures below and analyze where these organisms live.



HABITATS

Using the pictures on the previous slide, place the organisms in their habitat.
Some might fit in more than one category!

**Animals you might
have as a pet:**

Land Habitat:

Water Habitat:

Lesson 3:

Anatomy of an Orchestra

In this lesson, students will explore the instruments that make up the symphony orchestra!

Each instrument plays a different role and contributes to the “orchestra’s habitat” in a different way.

Standard:

GM.R2.A

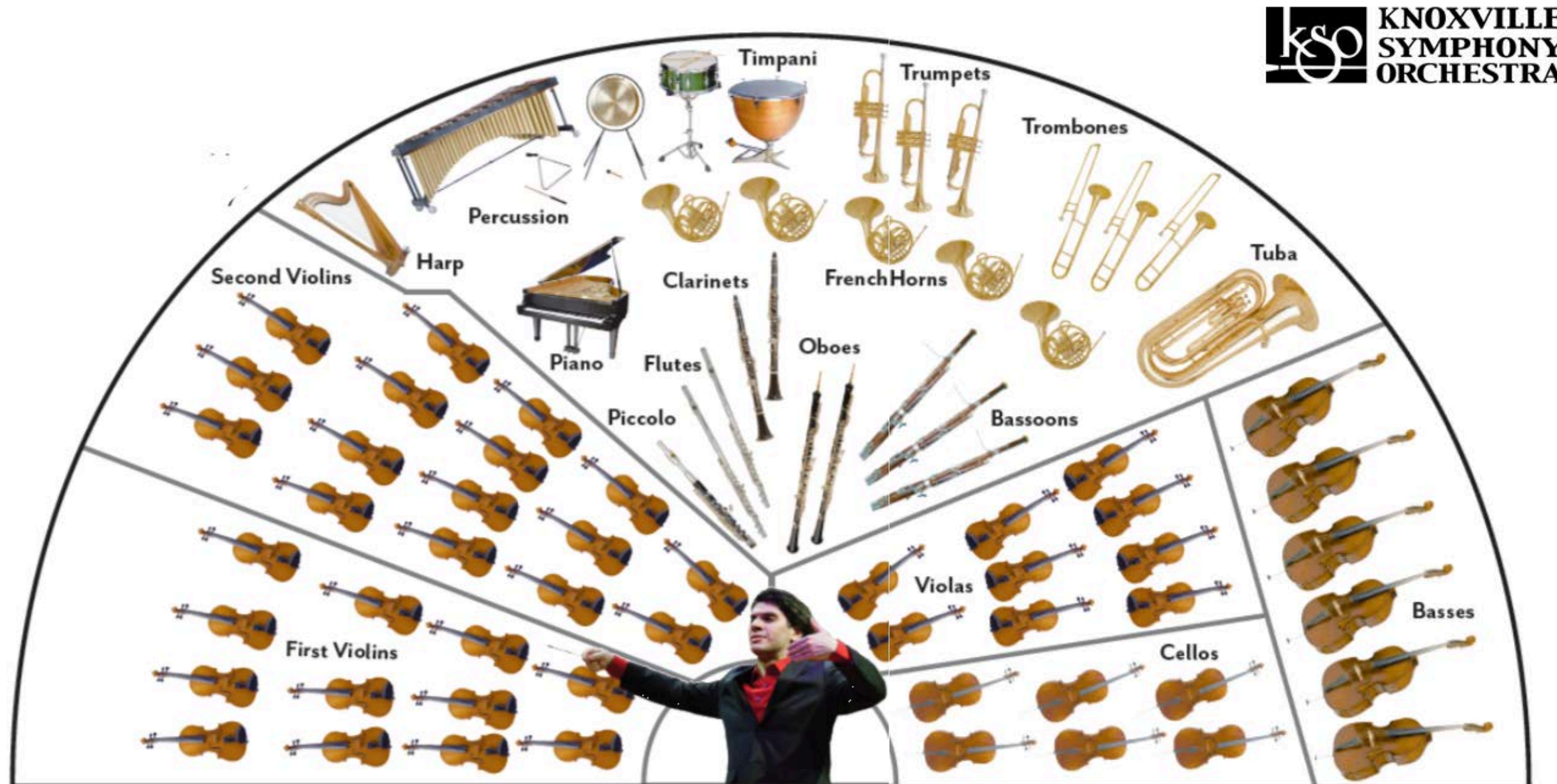
Objective:

Students will correctly place images of orchestral instruments into the appropriate section (strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion) on a classroom “orchestra map.”

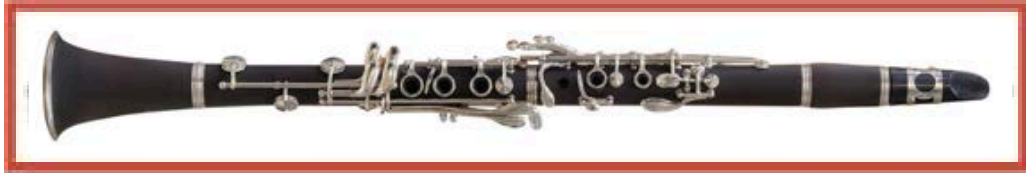
The Knoxville Symphony Orchestra

This seating chart shows how you might see the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra arranged when you come to the Very Young People's Concert. The players are seated in a semicircle facing the conductor.

Today's symphony orchestra varies in size from one place to another but usually has about 80-100 players. The string section, about 60 musicians, is the largest section in the orchestra. The woodwind section usually has 12 or more players, and the brass section typically has 10. Finally, the percussion section varies greatly, depending on the number of percussion parts used in a musical work.

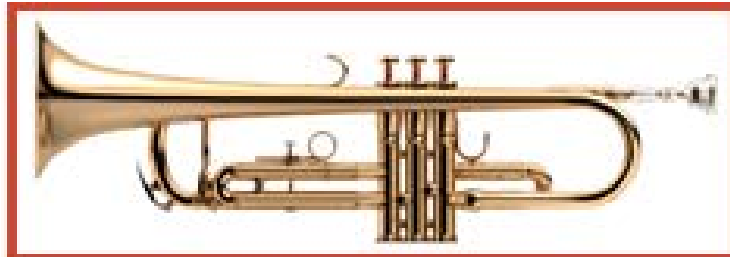
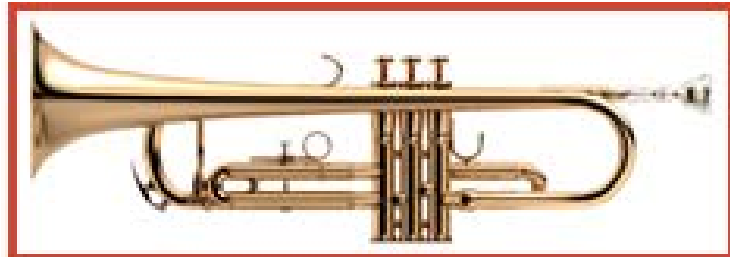
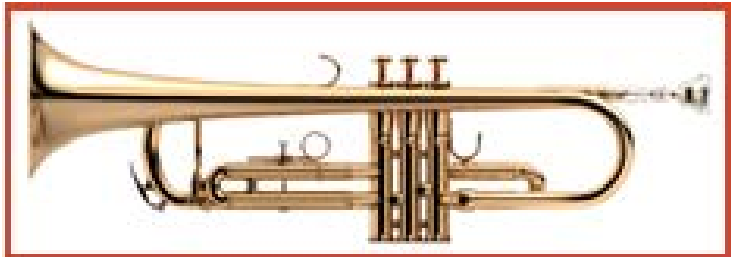


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Name: _____

KSO vYPC: Peter and the Wolf
Lesson 1: Activity 1 Work Sheet

After you read the story of Peter and the Wolf, make your best guess as to which instrument might best represent each character. If you are familiar with Peter and the Wolf, test your memory. Save the page for when you learn about the characters!

MY GUESS

WHAT I LEARNED!

THE BIRD

THE DUCK

THE CAT

GRANDFATHER

THE WOLF

PETER

THE HUNTERS

Name: _____

KSO vYPC: Peter and the Wolf

Lesson 1: Activity 2

Teacher Resource: Listening and Matching Activity

After learning about the different characters in “Peter and the Wolf” and listening to their musical themes complete this ‘Listening and Matching Activity.’

You can complete this activity as a class using Slide 26 or you can print the Worksheet on the following page, “Lesson 1: Activity 2 Worksheet,” and have students complete the listening activity independently or in groups.

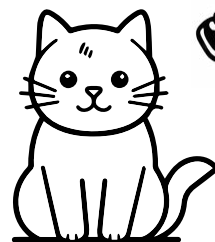
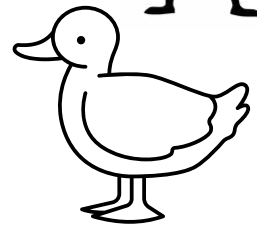
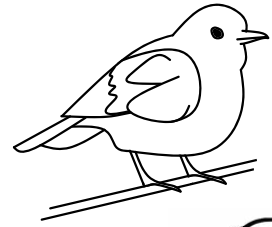
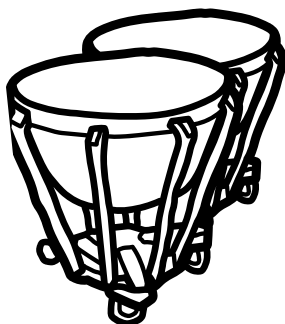
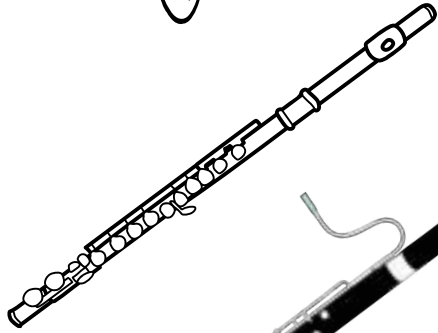
Play each characters theme in the suggested order below, or in an order of your choosing. The times provided correspond to the recording provided in the YouTube playlist provided on (“Serge Prokofiev: Peter and the Wolf | Vancouver Symphony Orchestra”. The avoid narration that might give away the character.

After listening to each character theme, students should identify the instrument they hear and match it to its character in Peter and the Wolf by drawing a line to connect the two.

Strings/Peter	2:42 - 3:20
Flute/Bird	3:40 - 4:08
Timpani/Hunter	2:08 - 2:18
Oboe/Duck	5:12 - 5:47
Horn/Wolf	1:21 - 1:32 or 11:58 - 12:30
Clarinet/Cat	0:38 - 0:46
Bassoon/Grandfather	0:53 - 1:04 or 9:41 - 9:59

Name: _____

KSO vYPC: Peter and the Wolf
Lesson 1: Activity 2 Work Sheet



Standards

The Very Young People's Concert
aligns with the National
Standards for General Music and
Science.

Click the link or scan the QR Code
to access a full list of National
Standards covered in this
Teacher Guide and Concert.



[CLICK HERE](#)

Sponsors and Acknowledgements

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Randy and Jenny Boyd



knoxvillesymphony.com



Aram Demirjian, Music Director

Presents

Peter AND THE Wolf

VERY YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT

Spring 2026





Join the KSO as we explore the creatures in our backyards through music in a magical introduction to the orchestra featuring Peter and the Wolf by Sergei Prokofiev. This “symphonic fairy tale” brings characters to life through the unique sounds of orchestral instruments, telling the adventures of a young boy named Peter. As the tale unfolds, students will discover the four instrument families—strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion—and how they work together to bring a story to life through music. Guided by KSO’s Music Director Aram Demirjian, this fun and engaging concert inspires curiosity about the music in nature and sparks a lifelong love of music.

Peter AND THE Wolf

VERY YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERT

Aram Demirjian, *Conductor*

Johann Strauss	Radetzky March
Morton Gould	American Salute
Edward Elgar	Moths and Butterflies from <i>Wand of Youth Suite</i>
Leroy Anderson	Plink, Plank, Plunk
George Gershwin	Promenade from <i>Walking the Dog</i>
Leroy Anderson	The Waltzing Cat
Sergei Prokofiev	Peter and the Wolf

