

17 - Marching Bands

Sounds: Crowd sounds; marching band playing outdoors

Photograph: Three band members in uniforms playing on a city street

Discussion

1. Do you like parades? What's your favorite part? Did you ever ride on a float, or run after one? Where? What events in your town included a parade with a marching band?
2. Do you like marching bands? When have you seen a marching band? Have you ever played in one? What instrument did you play? Were you ever part of a band's color guard? What type of uniform did you wear? What do you remember about the conductor?
3. Did your town have its own brass band? Did your town have a bandshell in the park? What bands played there? Did you ever picnic there while you listened to the band?
4. What is your favorite instrument to watch in a band? What other instruments can you identify in a band?
5. Were you ever in a kazoo band, an accordion band, or other specialized group? What did you play?
6. Have you ever played in a competition? Where? How did it turn out? Have you played at a music festival with many other groups performing, too? What do you remember about the experience?
7. Have you heard or played in a concert or symphonic band? Where?

Songs

"The Stars and Stripes Forever"

"The Beautiful Blue Danube"

"Ragtime Violin"

"America the Beautiful"

"Seventy-six Trombones"

"The Washington Post March"

Props

conductor's baton

violin bow

trumpet mouthpiece

twirler's baton

band sheet music

orchestra score

snare drum, drumsticks

colorful flags

Other Activities

1. Invite an instrumentalist to give a demonstration of how to play (trumpet, trombone, clarinet, saxophone, snare drum, etc.).
2. Play some of John Philip Sousa's march music and march in place.
3. Watch the movie musical *The Music Man*.
4. Borrow some band instruments for an "instrument petting zoo." Carefully pass around instruments, or parts of instruments, for group members to hold. (Note: Have some antibacterial wipes on hand in case someone tries out a mouthpiece.)

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