
iPad Projects for the Music Classroom

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Midnight Music

Sample project



App Smashing with Musical Stories

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

Objective

Record a musical story

Musical elements

Performance, creating mood music, exploring sound and sound effects

Technology skills

Download images, construct a presentation, record a performance

Suggested ages

Grades 5-8

iPad access options

This is a group activity. Works best with groups of 3-5 students, with a minimum of 3 iPads per group, could be adapted for groups with one iPad.

Time needed

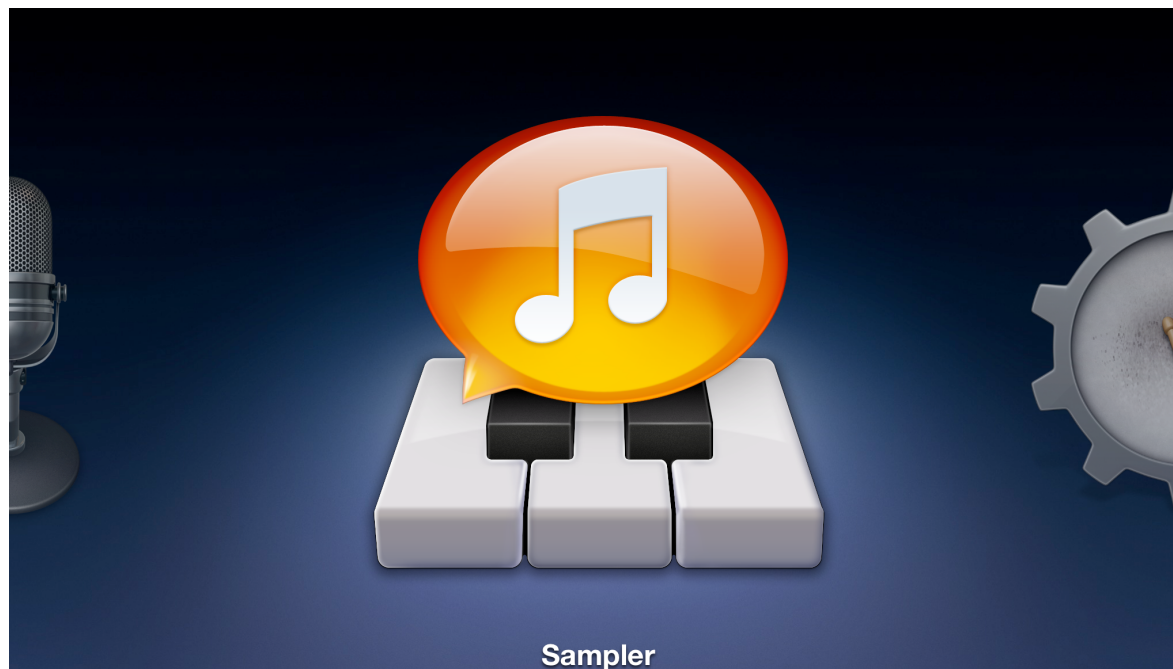
2 lessons

App required

Sonic Pics (or Explain Everything), GarageBand, MadPad, other optional “instrument” apps

INTRODUCTION

In this project, students will use their imagination to create a musical story with images, narration, music and sound effects. The images used for the story can be original photos or digital drawings, or something downloaded from a website and the music and sound effects can be created with iPads or real, live instruments and voices. There's lots of flexibility so you can adapt the project to the class time you have available.



Step-by-step

TEACHER'S NOTES

Working in groups, students will create a musical story with images, narration, music and sound effects.

This project is an example of “app-smashing” - using more than one app together to create a final product. In addition to using iPads to create the soundtrack part of the project, students can of course use “real” instruments, singing, body percussion and vocal sounds as part of their soundtrack.

It can be used as a follow-up activity to a number of earlier projects - such as the DIY Soundtrack Project, The Spooky Soundscape, Can You Guess?

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS

Overview

In groups of 3-5, you will write your own short story based on 3 images and then create a musical soundtrack (including sound effects) to accompany the story.

The Sonic Pics presentation app will be used to put the images together in order and to record your group's performance of the project.

Roles of group members

During the “performance” of the project, one student will be the narrator and will control Sonic Pics on the designated recording iPad. The other students will perform music and sound effects to enhance the story.

Each group will include the following:

- Narrator - narrates the story and operates Sonic Pics during the recording
- Musicians - create and perform music to accompany the story. The music will be played “live” during the recording and can be performed on iPads, or with “real” instruments
- Sound effects artists - create and perform sound effects to accompany the story. The sound effects will be played “live” during the recording and can be performed on iPads or created with found objects or body percussion

Collecting images

Start by finding 3 images which will form the basis of your story.

You have a few options here:

- Take photos with your iPad camera
- Download legal-to-use images from a public domain or Creative Commons website

- Make an image in a separate drawing app - if you have one - and save it to the Camera Roll

Important: the images you collect need to all end up on a single iPad - the one that the narrator will use when you record your story. When taking new photos or downloading photos, it's best to use the narrator's iPad so that the images are all in one place.

How to download an image from a website:

1. Visit the website (www.pixabay.com is an excellent source of Public Domain images)
2. When you find an image you like, tap and hold your finger on it.
3. A menu will appear - choose **Save Image**. The image will be saved to your Camera Roll

Write your story

Once you have collected the images, work together as a group to write your story. Keep it short - around one minute in length is ideal.

The narrator can write the story down, or memorize it.

Build your story in Sonic Pics

1. Open Sonic Pics and tap the **New Project** button, or tap the plus sign
2. Give your project a title and tap **Create**

3. Tap the **Camera icon** on the first slide to add your first photo (see **Tip**, right)
4. Choose **Camera Roll** and select your first image. Tap **Done**. The image will appear on the first slide
5. To add the next slide and image, tap **+ Add Images**. Select the image from the Camera Roll and tap **Done**
6. Repeat for the third image/slide
7. Optional: you can add titles and subtitles to your slides

Re-ordering slides

On the left of the screen, thumbnails of your slides are shown in a list.

To re-order the slides: tap and hold your finger on the horizontal lines next to the thumbnail and drag the slide up or down

Music and sound effects

Using the other iPads in the group, create music and sound effects to accompany your story. You might like to consider the following:

Tip: The first time you use Sonic Pics you will be prompted to switch on Location Services and allow Sonic Pics access to location data: open Settings > Privacy > Location Services (make sure it's turned on). Find Sonic Pics in the list of apps and make sure the slider is set to "on" (green).

- Improvise using any of the instruments in the GarageBand app
- Use some of the soundtrack ideas covered in the DIY Soundtrack project
- Create music using other instrument apps you might have on your iPad
- Use sound effects you've recorded in MadPad
- Play or sing live

Practice performing your story

You'll perform your story as a group. A couple of notes:

The narrator will read the story and operate the iPad that has the project in Sonic Pics. They will swipe to the next image at the appropriate time

Other group members will perform the accompanying music and sound effects on their own iPads.

All group members will stand around the narrator's iPad - the one that is recording the project in Sonic Pics. All of the sounds will be recorded through the iPad microphone.

Practice performing the story and pay particular attention to the sound levels of all the different parts. Make sure the narrator can be heard clearly. You might like to do a test recording to check the levels.

Record your performance

To record your story:

1. Make sure all group members are in position around the Narrator's iPad
2. On the Narrator's iPad, tap the **Record** button in Sonic Pics
3. Tap anywhere on the screen to dismiss the recording instructions
4. Tap the **Record** button at the bottom of the screen and start your performance. The entire story should be recorded in one go with the Narrator swiping to the next slide at the appropriate time
5. Tap the **Share** button at the bottom right of the screen to end the recording
6. Tap **Save**

It's a good idea to do a test-record of your performance. Check the balance is OK - the narrator should be easy to hear over the music and sound effects.

Class "performance"

Once all the class projects have been recorded, they will be shown on the data projector and shown to the rest of the class.



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Questions?

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