

**Project FOCUS  
Best Lessons  
FIRST GRADE**

**Title of Lesson:** Sound Pitch and Intensity

**Theme:** Physical Science

**Unit Number:** 5      **Unit Title:** Sound

**Performance Standard(s) Covered (enter code):**

S1P1

**Enduring Standards (objectives of activity):**

**Habits of Mind**

- Asks questions
- Uses numbers to quantify
- Works in a group
- Uses tools to measure and view
- Looks at how parts of things are needed
- Describes and compares using physical attributes
- Observes using senses
- Draws and describes observations

**Content (key terms and topics covered):**

Sound, pitch, intensity

**Learning Activity (Description in Steps)**

**Abstract(limit 100 characters):** The students make panpipes and use them to determine different pitches.

**Details:** We started off by defining sound pitch. Next, I had the students to demonstrate by having the girls to make a soft screaming sound and the guys to make the deepest noise they could. Then, we defined intensity, and we demonstrated this by having everyone scream and then having everyone whisper. Next, we made the panpipes with the straws of different lengths. The students blew in each straw separately to see which straw had the highest pitch sound and which straw had the lowest pitch sound. Lastly, I brought out the bottles, and the students blew in them to the tune of ‘Mary Had a Little Lamb.’

An alternative is to fill many jars with varying levels of water, and then let the students tap on the sides with spoons to hear the different pitch notes that can be played. The teacher can then play a song using the jars like a xylophone.

**Materials Needed (Type and Quantity):**

- 3 different size straws for each child
- Tape
- Glass bottles with different amounts of water

**Notes and Tips (suggested changes, alternative methods, cautions):**

**I gathered all the materials necessary before going to the classroom. It was trial and error with getting the right amount of water into the bottles to play the song notes in tune. Also, I made a panpipe prior to the lesson to illustrate what they should look like. I would suggest taking the children to an outdoor classroom because the lesson can become a bit noisy.**

**Sources/References:**

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)