Andrew Campbell  
Mused 351  
Ms. Finger  
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**1812 Overture - Interdisciplinary lesson plan Day one**

1. **Title of the Song** – 1812 Overture, Arr by Mark Williams
2. **Musical Concept of Focus** – Melody, Historical significance
3. **National Standards addressed –**

2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.

9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

1. **2 objectives for learning, and one for skill**,
2. After instruction the students will play the piece with reasonable accuracy
3. After instruction the students will have a better understanding of the historical significance behind the 1812 overture
4. **Process** 
   1. **Introduction of the piece**

Students will listen as the instructor introduces the 1812 overture the class discussing things such as the composer and how we also wrote other pieces (nut cracker suite) that the students might know. The instructor will also mention the use of cannons as an instrument to get students excited about the piece

* 1. **Teaching the song - detailed process**

The students will play with the instructor as the teacher introduces the piece musically. The instructor will use a whole part whole approach as this piece is a challenge but the arrangement won’t be too difficult for middle school students. Problems will be addressed as the instructor see’s fit.

* 1. **The concept**

After playing through a majority of the piece the instructor will lead a discussion on the 1812 overture and its historical significance. Specific areas addressed will include:

What’s country is Tchaikovsky from? If you had to guess from his name? Yes, Russian.

Does anyone know what was going on in the year 1812? Here in America, there was the war of 1812. Is that what this piece is about? Tricked you, it’s not! There was just a lot of things going on in Europe at that time, lot’s of war.

This song though is about war, what hints lead to that? Right, the cannons! There’s more to but we’ll talk about that tomorrow.

So we mentioned Tchaikovsky was Russian so do we think Russia was involved in this war maybe? Hint, this isn’t a trick question the answer is yes.

Napoleon, that short French invader, invaded Russia in 1812 and Russia proved too cold and too much for the French army and ultimately the Russians pushed them back out of Russia and to celebrate this defeat the song was written when obviously in what year? Correct 1880 when the piece was commissioned for Tchaikovsky to write, remember. Remember it was about the war that happened in 1812

* 1. **Conclusion –** The class will end with further work on the song, particularly prepping the spots that will be used in tomorrow’s lesson.

**1812 Overture - Interdisciplinary lesson plan Day two**

1. **Title of the Song** – 1812 Overture, Arr by Mark Williams
2. **Musical Concept of Focus** – Melody, Historical significance
3. **National Standards addressed –**

2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.

9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

1. **2 objectives for learning, and one for skill**,

* After instruction the students will play the piece with reasonable accuracy
* After instruction the students will have a better understanding of the historical significance behind the 1812 overture
  1. **Teaching the song** following a warm up with exercises of related scales used in the piece and difficult rhythmic patterns used in the piece as well, students will be led to the excerpt of the French national anthem in the song. The teacher will have the students learn this section and ask if they’ve heard it anywhere before. Repeat the same process for the God save the Tsar excerpt in the music and again as th students if they have maybe heard that theme anywhere before.

### Introduction of the material the instructor will play a recording of the French national anthem. Students will be listening to figure out which excerpt this recording matches, the first one practiced today or the second. The instructor will then explain that the recording is of La Marseillaise, the French national anthem. *So class, what’s this piece celebrating again, we covered it yesterday remember? That’s right the Russian victory over French invaders in the war of 1812. So then why did Tchaikovsky include the French national anthem in this piece? While you think about it let’s listen to the Russian national anthem now.* The instructor will then play the Russian national anthem for the students and note that it was the second excerpt they played. *So any ideas of why Tchaikovsky included both national anthems?* The instructor will have students try to make conclusions themselves. *Well think about the context of this piece, it’s about a war right? Well, what is a good way to depict a country through music? That’s right by using their national anthems.*

* 1. **Reinforcement of the concept.** *So now I am going to play the finally for you class and I want you to sit when you hear the French and stand when you hear the Russians.* The instructor will then draw conclusions based around the canon fire about how the piece portrayed the war through the interplay of the two different themes in the music. *You could tell they were at war because of how the canons where firing when you heard both of their anthems couldn’t you?*
  2. **Review**

Who composed this piece? What two sides were at war? Who was invading who? How did Tchaikovsky portray images of the war? How did he portray the countries in the war?