

Shaping the sound Drawing sound waves vibrations

Is it possible to make sound visible through listening and drawing? ·································Can sound and music have form and shape?

Shaping the sound is an activity to explore the sensorial experience of listening to music. This activity is made with eyes close while drawing the form of sound vibrations in music. In other words, the listening experience is based on identifying vibrations and making them visual through drawing. The music for this activity is a sicá song from the bomba musical genre of Puerto Rico.

Bomba music have different elements we can focus on while listening to it. Some of these elements are the drums, the maraca, cua, and songs. What sounds are you able to listen to the most? Are you inclined to pay more attention to percussion instruments, to the voice of the singer, or to the maraca? While listening the song, does your focus change from one instrument to the other?

There is not right or wrong way to perform this activity!

Materials:

Headphones and a listening device Shaping the Sound worksheet and pencil Bomba track song Keywords: Sicá Rhythm Sound Vibrations Perception

Steps to follow

- 1. Take your materials and sit in a comfortable space.
- 2. Turn on your listening device and wear your headphones.
- 3. Place the worksheet on a flat surface in your lap and hold the pencil in the starting point.
- 4. Play the music and close your eyes.
- 5. While listening the song (which has a duration of two minutes), start drawing the shape of the music vibrational waves in the worksheet. The drawing of the sound waves will go from left to right, in a horizontal direction. Each wave will be under the other. The goal is to give shape to the vibrations you sense from the bomba song that is playing.
- 6. Keep drawing with your eyes closed while the music is playing, until the end of the song.
- 7. Once the song is over, open your eyes and look at the drawing.
- 8. Reflect on your experience and conclude this exercise by writing down feelings, ideas, images, thoughts or questions that came to your mind during the process.

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*The end point in the worksheet is indicating the amount of space available to draw and the limits of the paper.

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"Sicá" Rythm



Shaping the Sound Worksheet

Link to "Sicá" song:

Starting point



Conclusion:

