

Destination America: Activity 1

Getting to Know the Music of America

Teaching Objective

Students will increase their aural awareness of the musical characteristics found in the DSO concert music selections.

Resources/Materials

- “Getting to Know the Music of America” graphic organizer – Student Copy - 1 per student for each musical selection studied
- “Getting to Know the Music of America” graphic organizer – Teacher Copy with explanations to be projected onto board for students to see.
- Pencils
- Accompanying Youth Concert CD

Vocabulary – Musical Characteristics

Tempo – How fast/slow the music moves

Rhythm – How evenly or unevenly the music moves over the beat

Melody – The tune of the music

Theme – The musical main idea which is sometimes repeated through the music

Accompaniment – The supporting music which moves underneath the melody

Dynamics – The loudness/softness of the music

Pre-Assessment

Ask students if they have ever gone shopping for new clothes. How did they choose what to purchase? Perhaps the color of an item caught their eye, or perhaps it was the style of the item, the fabric, or the design. The characteristics of the clothing item would determine if we wished to purchase it or not. Repeated wearing and comments from others might make it a favorite item to wear or perhaps not. Either way, we would know why the item was purchased and why we like or dislike it. This happens with music too. The more we hear a piece of music, the more we get to know its special characteristics. The more we listen, the more we hear. Sometimes a musical selection becomes such a favorite that we purchase a recording or download the tune from iTunes.

Teachers Note

This lesson may be completed in one session or it may be divided into many listenings depending on the time frame for the class.

Teaching Sequence

1. Inform the class that today they will listen to one of the selections played by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra at the Destination: America concert.
2. Project the “Getting to Know the Music of America” graphic organizer (Teacher Copy with explanations) onto the board for all students to see.
3. Pass out pencils and the “Getting to Know the Music of America” graphic organizer worksheet for students - 1 per student.
4. Ask students to write in the title of the music and the composer in the center circle on their papers. Teacher writes this information on the board. Discuss the focus of listening for each oval in the graphic organizer.
5. As the students listen to the music ask them to fill in each oval on their graphic organizer according to the musical characteristic listed. Ask students to use descriptive words which will enable them to remember the piece of music when heard another time.

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Culminating Activity

Using the “Getting to Know the Music of America” graphic organizer as a visual for the class, the teacher should fill in the ovals on the board as students share the words they chose to describe the characteristics of the music. Encourage the students to share why their word descriptions fit this piece of music. Encourage the class to copy additional descriptions they may not have down on their own papers, but which they feel describe what they heard.

Extension Activity

On another day, choose a different musical selection and repeat the lesson. Have the students use a new graphic organizer for each piece of music they hear.

Evaluation

Did the students increase their aural awareness of the musical characteristics found in the DSO concert music selection?

TEKS Connections

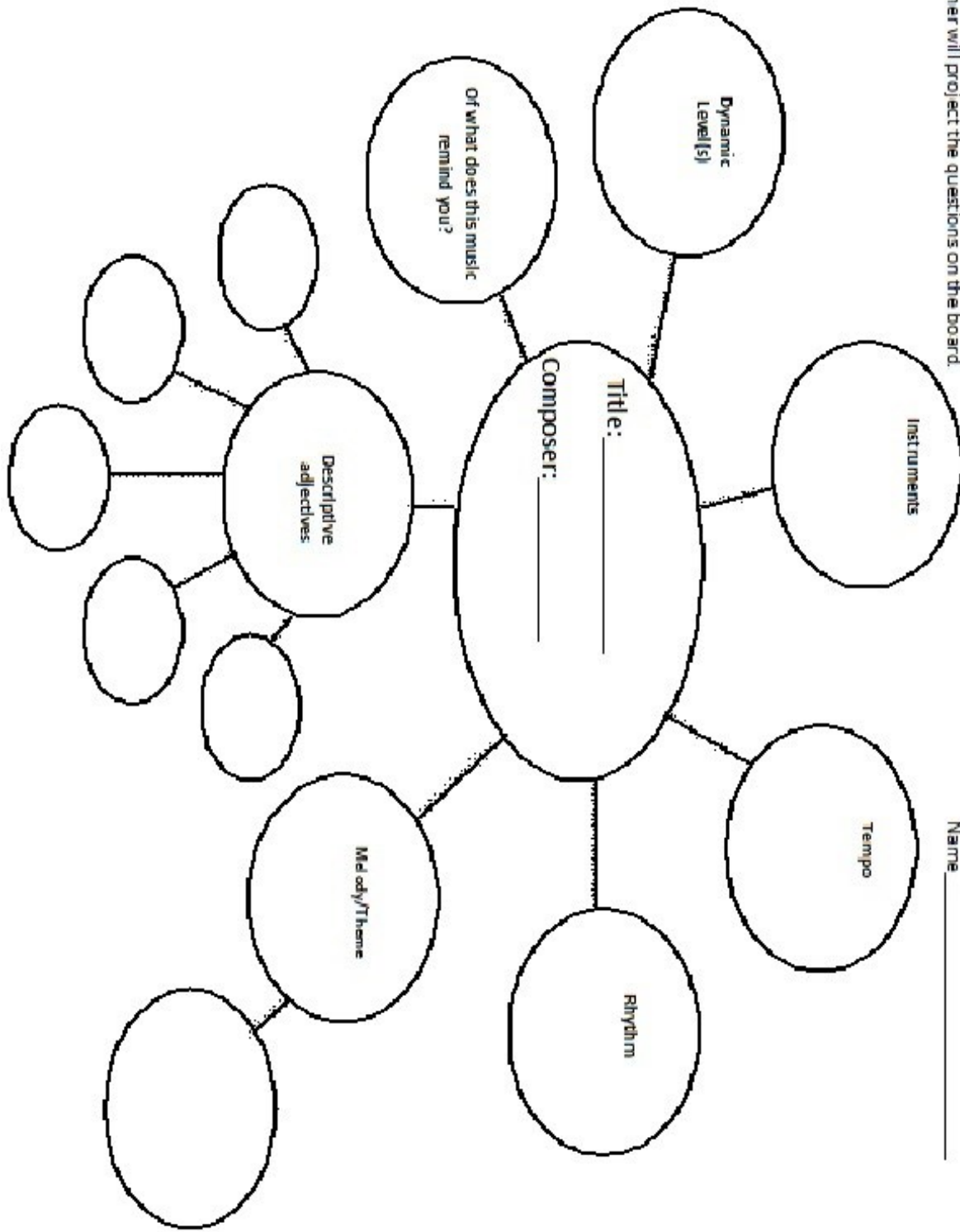
English Language Arts: 110.14b(29-31); 110.15b(27-29); 110.16b(27-29); 110.18b(26-28)
Music: 117.12b(1,3,5,6); 117.15b(1,3,5,6); 117.18b(1,3,5,6); 117.33b(1,3,5,6)



"Getting to Know the Music of America"

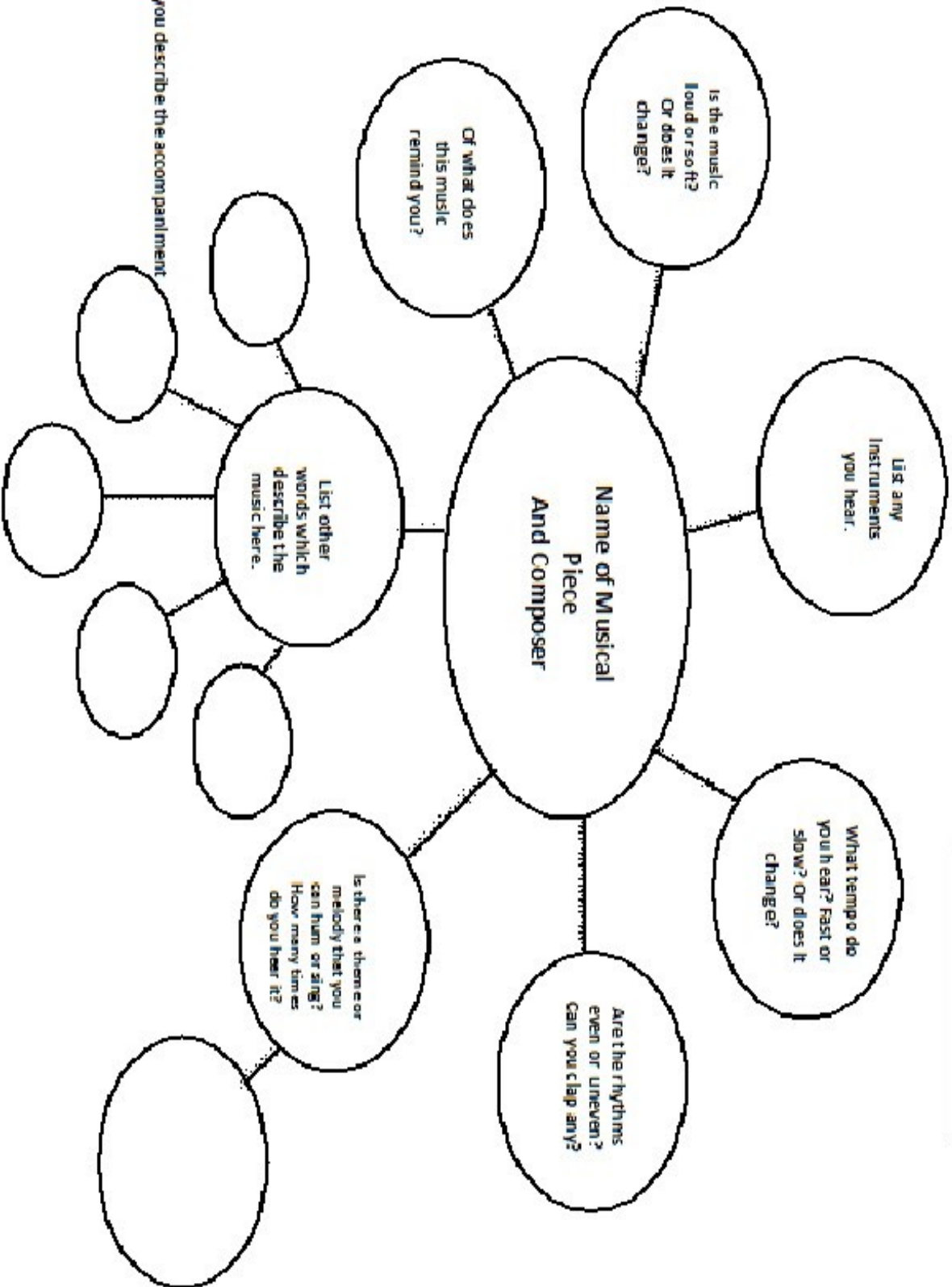
Directions: Fill in the words which describe each area.
Your teacher will project the questions on the board.

Name _____



For "Getting to Know the Music of America" Activity
To project onto the board

Name _____



How would you describe the accompaniment