

Music unit study

A homeschool curriculum with music at its core — theory as math, sound as physics, history through its soundtrack, for K-12 learners.

GRADE BANDS K-2 · 3-5 · 6-8 · 9-12

FULL GUIDE <https://handsdowneducation.com/homeschool/music>

How to use this planner

The six weeks below are sequenced from the guide's sample week: five weeks that each take one core subject through the topic, then a showcase week that turns the portfolio into a final product. Run each activity at the level your child is at (the grade band notes tell you how), keep the output, and by week six you have a portfolio that shows the unit end to end.

Pace is yours. A week here is three to five working sessions; a topic that is going well can take two calendar weeks, and one that has run dry can be closed early. Tick the box when a week's output is in the portfolio.

Six-week scope and sequence

Wk	Focus	Key activity	Portfolio output	Done
1	Reading & Writing through music	Read the story behind one protest song, then write liner notes for it — context, meaning, and why this song at this moment.	Portfolio entry: the week's reading & writing piece, dated, with one line from your child on what they found out.	☐
2	Math through music	Map note values as fractions and clap increasingly tricky rhythms from notation; then compose four bars where the fractions must sum correctly per measure.	Portfolio entry: the week's math piece, dated, with one line from your child on what they found out.	☐
3	Science through music	Stretch strings of different lengths and tensions over a box and measure how pitch changes — then find the same relationships inside a piano or guitar.	Portfolio entry: the week's science piece, dated, with one line from your child on what they found out.	☐
4	Social Studies through music	Trace one musical lineage across geography — West African rhythms to blues to rock, or Roma music into flamenco — mapping each move to the history that caused it.	Portfolio entry: the week's social studies piece, dated, with one line from your child on what they found out.	☐
5	Art through music	Design an album cover whose visual language matches the music's mood, and defend the choices in a short artist's statement.	Portfolio entry: the week's art piece, dated, with one line from your child on what they found out.	☐
6	Showcase and review	Choose one final product that pulls the unit together — a presentation, an exhibit, a field guide or a short documentary — and give the week to making it. Finish with a portfolio review: lay every week's output on the table and let your child narrate what changed in what they know about music.	The final product plus a one-page unit summary in your child's words, filed with the portfolio.	☐

Running it at your child's level

K-2 learners keep steady beat, distinguish loud/soft and fast/slow, sing folk repertoire and meet notation as pictures — the ear training window is wide open at this age.

Teens can study real theory (chord function, form analysis), produce digitally in free software, and write about music with genuine critical vocabulary — plus practice as documented course credit.

A sample week, subject by subject

Reading & Writing

Read the story behind one protest song, then write liner notes for it — context, meaning, and why this song at this moment.

Math

Map note values as fractions and clap increasingly tricky rhythms from notation; then compose four bars where the fractions must sum correctly per measure.

Science

Stretch strings of different lengths and tensions over a box and measure how pitch changes — then find the same relationships inside a piano or guitar.

Social Studies

Trace one musical lineage across geography — West African rhythms to blues to rock, or Roma music into flamenco — mapping each move to the history that caused it.

Art

Design an album cover whose visual language matches the music's mood, and defend the choices in a short artist's statement.

Common questions

Neither parent plays an instrument. Fatal?

No. Theory, acoustics, history and listening skills are all teachable from good materials; instrument instruction, when wanted, can come from lessons, video courses, or a patient app.

Does production on a laptop count as music education?

Fully. A teenager arranging tracks in a DAW is doing applied theory, critical listening and audio physics — the same musicianship in a modern workshop.

How does music carry science credit?

Acoustics is real physics: frequency, wavelength, resonance, harmonics. String and air-column experiments produce measurable data and connect directly to the instrument in your child's hands.

Turn this into a full, standards-aligned curriculum

Generate a complete plan around music for your child's grade and pace — free to try, no account required.

<https://handsdowneducation.com/curriculum/generate>