

## Schoolhouse Rocks

### **Scenario:**

Your team is composed of elementary school music teachers that write songs to help students learn in other subjects such as math, language arts, science, and history. You know the value of using songs in the classroom. Your goal is to encourage more teachers to use and write their own songs. You have a chance to spread your message at a conference of teachers at a California Professional Development Day. In your presentation, you may want to include some examples of how songs are used to teach. You will want to adapt a children's tune for teaching purposes to demonstrate how to create educational songs.

### **Possible topics to cover (these are only suggestions and are not a requirement for a superior presentation):**

1. Why should songs be a part of the curriculum?
2. How do songs help students learn?
3. Where can teachers find tunes to use for their songs?
4. What types of music do you think are best for learning?
5. Survey students to see what songs helped them learn.
6. Are there some learning songs used internationally?
7. Interview some teachers that create their own musical learning songs.
8. How can these songs be shared with others?
9. What visual representation or movements should go with the song?
10. What are some basic elements that go into a good learning song?
11. Test out a set of songs with other students to see which ones they think are best for learning.

### **Possible Sources**

Newspapers, historians, music teachers, videos, CD's, encyclopedias, history textbooks  
Facts on File, United Streaming, Associate Press Extensive Photo Archive and

Internet links for additional resources are on page 2 of this scenario.

### **Bibliography**

Be sure to have a printed bibliography to hand to the judges before you begin your presentation. You are encouraged to cite all of your sources including graphics. A simple web tool to organize your bibliography can be found at <http://citationmachine.net/>.

## Grade 4 2008 Resources

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MuSICA Research Notes: V II, I 2, Fall 1995

[www.musica.uci.edu/mrn/V2I2F95.html](http://www.musica.uci.edu/mrn/V2I2F95.html)

Dr. Wolff goes on to argue that the case for music education can be strengthened if it has nonmusical benefits to students, be they in academic subjects, social and emotional adjustments or physical development. I would add to the list general cognitive and intellectual growth.

Songs for Teaching Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling

[www.songsforteaching.com/grammarspelling.htm](http://www.songsforteaching.com/grammarspelling.htm)

Language Arts Songs that Teach

English Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling

This is a commercial site that has some examples.

HEALTH PARENT MUSIC AND KIDS\_PVHS\_JULY07

[vic.pvhs.org/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PVHS/PVHS\\_DOC...](http://vic.pvhs.org/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/PVHS/PVHS_DOC...)

Want Your Kids to Do Better in Math or Reading? Try Music!

Article about music and developing part of the brain.

Educational CyberPlayGround: Teaching Reading Through Song

[www.edu-cyberpg.com/Culdesac/ReadingModule/Munr...](http://www.edu-cyberpg.com/Culdesac/ReadingModule/Munr...)

Last year, Munro conducted a research project with third graders behind in their reading levels. Teaching reading through songs improved the students' accuracy, phrasing and fluency in reading, she said.

Using Music to Improve Listening Comprehension Skills

[www.language-learning-advisor.com/using-music-t...](http://www.language-learning-advisor.com/using-music-t...)

Includes some criteria of what makes a good song for learning.

Music and Learning by Chris Boyd Brewer

[www.newhorizons.org/strategies/arts/brewer.htm](http://www.newhorizons.org/strategies/arts/brewer.htm)

Research continues to be conducted to provide helpful guidelines for our intentional use of music, especially in the classroom. This article, based on extensive research and experiences, will provide you with successful and valuable guidelines for incorporating music into the teaching and learning environment-- applicable to all ages and educational settings.

This is a foundational article for this topic.

Food Chain: Science Song for Teaching About the Food Chain

[www.songsforteaching.com/kathleencarroll/foodch...](http://www.songsforteaching.com/kathleencarroll/foodch...)

Listen to this song to find the secret of energy on this planet! How does this energy get used over and over?

Follow the food chain among plants and animals in the ocean and in a fast food restaurant. How might this transfer take place in a forest?

This is an example of a song used to teach science.

Language Arts Songs: Music That Builds Reading & Writing Skills

[www.songsforteaching.com/reading.htm](http://www.songsforteaching.com/reading.htm)

Songs for Building Reading & Language Arts Skills  
Has some examples of songs that can be played.